

## Gates, Obama urge repeal of military's gay ban

By PHILIP ELLIOTT,  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Defense Secretary Robert Gates is encouraging Congress to act before year's end to repeal the ban on gays serving openly in the military. It's a position shared by his boss, the president.

But his new Marine commandant thinks otherwise and the Senate has not yet taken action, setting up yet another hurdle for gay activists who see their window quickly closing. After Tuesday's elections that saw Republicans chip away at Democrats' majority in the Senate and wrest the House from their control, their hopes for ending the 17-year-old law have dimmed.

"I would like to see the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell,' but I'm not sure what the prospects for that are and we'll just have to see," Gates told reporters traveling with him to Australia this weekend.

Gates said he would prefer Congress act after the Pentagon releases its study of how repeal would be implemented, which is due Dec. 1.

That goal, though, lacks to backing of the Marine Corps commandant at a moment the country is fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Clare Hogenauer of Mahattan, a retired criminal defense attorney who is against the death penalty, left, sits outside the Superior Court as Petit familymembers, right, arrive for jury deliberations in New Haven, Conn., Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010. Steven Hayes has been convicted in the triple murder of the 2007 Cheshire, Conn., home invasion where Jennifer Hawke-Petit and daughters, Hayley and Michaela, were murdered. The penalty phase of the trial continued on Sunday.

(AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

## No sentence yet in Conn. home invasion murders

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – A Connecticut jury has ended a third day of deliberations without deciding a sentence for a man convicted of killing a woman and her two daughters in their suburban home in which the girls were tied to their beds, doused in gasoline and left to die in a fire.

Steven Hayes was found guilty last month of killing Jennifer Hawke-Petit and her daughters — 17-year-old Hayley and 11-year-old Michaela — in 2007 in Cheshire. Jurors are to return Monday to deliberate on a life sentence or the death penalty for Hayes.

His lawyers have argued that he should be spared the death penalty because his mental capacity was significantly impaired. But prosecutors say Hayes and co-defendant Joshua Komisarjevsky should get the death penalty.

Komisarjevsky is awaiting trial. □

## Slim hope for change in 1st Myanmar vote since '90

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Voters in the secretive military-ruled nation of Myanmar cast their first ballots in two decades, as slim hopes for democratic reform engineered to ensure that most power will remain in the hands of the junta and its political proxies.

There was little doubt that the junta-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party would emerge with an enormous share of the parliamentary seats from Sunday's vote, despite widespread popular opposition to 48 years of military rule. It fielded 1,112 candidates for the 1,159 seats in the two-house national parliament and 14 regional parliaments, while the largest anti-government party, the National Democratic Force, contested just 164 spots. Detained Nobel Peace Prize

laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party won a landslide victory in the last elections in 1990 but was barred from taking office, urged a boycott of the vote. Hundreds of potential opposition candidates were either in prison or, like Suu Kyi, under house arrest.

The military has ruled Myanmar since 1962, when it was known as Burma. Decades of human rights abuses and mistreatment of its ethnic minorities have turned the Southeast Asian nation into a diplomatic outcast. The junta has squandered Myanmar's vast natural resources through economic mismanagement and found itself allied with international pariahs like North Korea.

Many voters said they wanted to cast their votes against the junta's politicians.

"I cannot stay home and do



A Myanmar activist holds a portrait of Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi during a protest against their home country's election, in front of the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010. Voters in Myanmar's first election in 20 years cast their ballots Sunday amid both a barrage of criticism that the balloting was rigged in favor of the ruling military and hope that some change toward democratic reform might nonetheless follow.

*Associated Press*

nothing," said Yi Yi, a 45-year-old computer technician in Yangon. "I have to go out and

vote against USDP. That's how I will defy them (the junta)."

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# 9/11 workers faced deadline for health settlement

NEW YORK – Thousands of laborers, police officers and firefighters suing New York City over their exposure to toxic World Trade Center dust have until Monday to decide whether to join a legal settlement that could ultimately pay them as much as \$815 million.

More than 10,000 people have sued the city and a long list of companies that handled the massive cleanup of lower Manhattan after the 9/11 attacks.

Many claim to be suffering from illnesses caused by inhaling the pulverized remnants of the twin towers. Their lawsuits blame the government and its contractors for failing to provide proper equipment to protect their lungs.

The vast bulk of the litigation could be over on Monday.

Paul Napoli, a leader of the legal team representing most of the plaintiffs, told The Associated Press on Friday that with Monday's deadline looming on the largest and most important of several related settlements, 90 percent of those eligible had said "yes" to the deal.

An all-out effort was being made to get the rest to join on, he said. He said he and other lawyers in the firm were

being besieged with questions from clients still trying to choose between taking the money, or rejecting it and taking their case to trial.

"A lot of people appear to be making a last minute decision," he said. "It's like tax day ... there is going to be a lot of last minute wrangling."

Under the terms of the deal, at least 95 percent of the plaintiffs must opt to participate for the settlement to become effective. Napoli said he was feeling good about hitting the target, although he added that getting the paperwork finished for each claim by midnight on the deadline will be no small feat.

"I'm hopeful there will be a little leeway," he said.

The Monday deadline technically applies only to a settlement negotiated between Napoli's legal team and the city's attorneys in the spring. That deal would distribute as much as \$712 million among the workers, based on the severity of their illnesses and the likelihood they could be linked to the 9/11 attacks.

But since that deal was inked, the firm has worked out similar agreements with other defendants in the case, including the agency that owns the

World Trade Center site, that will add to the total value of the pot.

An insurance company that represented the operators of barges that carried rubble from Manhattan to Staten Island after the attacks has agreed to settle for \$28 million, Napoli said. Other entities, including those involved in the debris-sorting operation at the city's Fresh Kills landfill, have agreed in principle on settlements that will add another \$100 million, he said. Some rescue and recovery workers who had been outspoken critics of the deal early on have decided in the end to sign.

Retired Fire Department Lt. Kenny Specht, who now leads a fraternal group for New York firefighters, was among them.

Like others, he said the payments responders will receive under the deal will never be enough to compensate for their illnesses. But he called the settlement, "the best we were going to do."

Fighting for more money in court, he said, seemed like it could wind up a losing battle, in part because "the shelf life" of sympathy for 9/11 responders is running out.



"I felt in my bones that it was expiring," he said.

He added that he was also concerned about the difficulty of trying to prove that common illnesses like cancer were caused by trade center dust. So far, scientists studying the issue has yet to find any such link.

"We are nine years outside of Sept. 11, and we live in a very technologically advanced time," he said. "If nine years after the fact, they have still not attributed the cancers that are killing us to 9/11, either they have that information, and there is no way they are going to publish it, or there just isn't a correlation." □




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# First gay Episcopal bishop to retire in 2013

The first openly gay Episcopal bishop said Saturday that he will retire in 2013, due in part to the "constant strain" on him and his family from the worldwide backlash against his election seven years ago.

Bishop V. Gene Robinson, whose consecration convulsed the global Anglican fellowship, said he was announcing his retirement early so the transition would be smooth for the Diocese of New Hampshire. He assured congregants that he is healthy and sober after seeking treatment for alcoholism five years ago. He will be 65 when he steps down.

Robinson revealed his plans at the annual diocesan convention in Concord.

"The fact is, the last seven years have taken their toll on me, my family and you," the bishop said, in prepared remarks released by the diocese. "Death threats, and the now-worldwide controversy surrounding your election of me as bishop have been a constant strain, not just on me, but on my beloved husband, Mark."

Robinson was surrounded by bodyguards and wore a bulletproof vest under his vestments when he was consecrated in 2003, an event celebrated far beyond the church as a breakthrough for gay acceptance even as it broke open a long-developing rift over what Anglicans should believe.

The Episcopal Church is the U.S. body in the 77 million-member Anglican Communion, a group of churches that trace their roots to the missionary work of the Church of England.

The spiritual head of the Anglicans, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, has been struggling to keep the fellowship together since Robinson was installed.

Episcopal and Anglican traditionalists overseas formed alliances and created the Anglican Church in North America as a conservative rival to the Episcopal Church. Under pressure from conservatives, Williams did not invite Robinson to the 2008 Lambeth Conference, a once-a-decade meeting of the world's Anglican bishops. Instead, Robinson flew privately to England and spoke at local churches while the other Anglican bishops convened. Robinson and his partner of more than two decades, Mark Andrew, held a civil union ceremony in 2008, and the bishop publicly advocated for same-sex marriage in New Hampshire, which the state approved last year. Robinson also gave the opening prayer at a concert ahead of Barack Obama's inauguration as president.

The bishop's retirement will not heal tensions among Anglicans, which go beyond Robinson. Episcopalians solidified their support for



same-sex relationships last year by authorizing bishops to bless same-sex unions and by consecrating a lesbian, Assistant Bishop Mary Glasspool of Los Angeles.

In his speech Saturday, Robinson thanked congregants for supporting him through the tumult over his election.

"New Hampshire is always the place I remain, simply, 'the bishop.' This is the one place on earth where I am not 'the gay bishop,'" Robinson said. "I believe that you elected me because you believed me to be the right person to lead you at this time. The world has sometimes questioned that, but I hope you never did." □

## November 2010



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# Blacks struggle with 72 percent unwed mothers rate

HOUSTON – One recent day at Dr. Natalie Carroll's OB-GYN practice, located inside a low-income apartment complex tucked between a gas station and a freeway, 12 pregnant black women come for consultations. Some bring their children or their mothers. Only one brings a husband.

Things move slowly here. Women sit shoulder-to-shoulder in the narrow waiting room, sometimes for more than an hour. Carroll does not rush her mothers in and out. She wants her babies born as healthy as possible, so Carroll spends time talking to the mothers about how they should care for themselves, what she expects them to do and why they need to get married.

Seventy-two percent of black babies are born to unmarried mothers today, according to government statistics. This number is inseparable from the work of Carroll, an obstetrician who has dedicated her 40-year career to helping black women.

"The girls don't think they have to get married. I tell them children deserve a mama and a daddy. They really do," Carroll says from behind the desk of her office, which has cushioned pink-and-green armchairs, bars on the windows, and a wooden "LOVE" carving between two African figurines. Diamonds circle Carroll's ring finger.

As the issue of black unwed parenthood inches into public discourse, Carroll is among the few speaking boldly about it. And as a black woman who has brought thousands of babies into the world, who has sacrificed income to serve Houston's poor, Carroll is among the few whom black women will actually listen to.

"A mama can't give it all. And neither can a daddy, not by themselves," Carroll says. "Part of the reason is because you can only give that which you have. A mother cannot give all that a man can give. A truly involved father figure offers more fullness to a child's life."

Statistics show just what that fullness means. Children of unmarried mothers of any race are more likely to perform poorly in school, go to prison, use drugs, be poor as adults, and have their own children out of wedlock.

The black community's 72 percent rate eclipses that of most other groups: 17 percent of Asians, 29 percent of whites, 53 percent of Hispanics and 66 percent of Native Americans were born to unwed mothers in 2008, the most recent year for which government figures are available. The rate for the overall U.S. population was 41 percent.

This issue entered the public consciousness in 1965, when a now famous government report by future senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan described a "tangle of pathology" among blacks that fed a 24 percent black "illegitimacy" rate. The white rate then was 4 percent.

Many accused Moynihan, who was white, of "blaming the victim:" of saying that black behavior, not racism, was the main cause of black problems. That dynamic persists. Most talk about the 72 percent has come from conservative circles; when influential blacks like Bill Cosby have spoken out about it, they have been all but shouted down by liberals saying that a lack of equal education and opportunity are the true root of the problem.

Even in black churches, "nobody talks about it," Carroll says. "It's like some big secret." But there are signs of change, of discussion and debate within



and outside the black community on how to address the growing problem.

Research has increased into links between behavior and poverty, scholars say. Historically black Hampton University recently launched a National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting. There is a Marry Your Baby Daddy Day, founded by a black woman who was left at the altar, and a Black Marriage Day, which aims "to make healthy marriages the norm rather than the exception."

In September, Princeton University and the liberal Brookings Institution released a collection of "Fragile Families" reports on unwed parents. And an online movement called "No Wedding No Womb" ignited a fierce debate that included strong opposition from many black women.

"There are a lot of sides to this," Carroll says. "Part of our community has lost its way."

There are simple arguments for why so many black women have children without marriage.

The legacy of segregation, the logic goes, means blacks are more likely to attend inferior schools. This creates a high proportion of blacks unprepared to compete for jobs in today's economy, where middle-class industrial work for unskilled laborers has largely disappeared.

The drug epidemic sent disproportionate numbers of black men to prison, and crushed the job opportunities for those who served their time. Women don't want to marry men who can't provide for their families, and welfare laws created a financial incentive for poor mothers to stay single.

If you remove these inequalities, some say, the 72 percent will decrease.

"It's all connected. The question should be, how has the black family survived at all?" says Maria Kefalas, co-author of "Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage."

The book is based on interviews with 162 low-income single mothers. One of its conclusions is that these women see motherhood as one of life's most fulfilling roles a rare opportunity for love and joy, husband or no husband.

Sitting in Carroll's waiting room, Sherhonda Mouton watches all the babies with the tender expression of a first-time mother, even though she's about to have her fourth child. Inside her purse is a datebook containing a handwritten ode to her children, titled "One and Only." It concludes:

"You make the hardest tasks seem light with everything you do."

"How blessed I am, how thankful for my one and only you."

Mouton, 30, works full time as a fast-food manager on the 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. shift. She's starting classes to become a food inspector.

"My children are what keep me going, every day," she says. "They give me a lot of hope and encouragement." Her plans for them? "College, college, college."

On Mouton's right shoulder, the name of her oldest child, Zanevia, is tattooed around a series of scars. When Zanevia was an infant, Mouton's drug-addled fiance came home one night and started shooting. Mouton was hit with six bullets; Zanevia took three and survived.

"This man was the love of my life," Mouton says. He's serving a 60-year sentence. Another man fathered her second and third children; Mouton doesn't have good things to say about him. The father of her unborn child? "He's around. He helps with all the kids."

She does not see marriage in her future.

"It's another obligation that I don't need," Mouton says. "A good man is hard to find nowadays."

Mouton thinks it's a good idea to encourage black women to wait for marriage to have children. However, "what's good for you might not be good for me." Yes, some women might need the extra help of a husband. "I might do a little better, but I'm doing fine now. I'm very happy because of my children."

"I woke up today at six o'clock," she says. "My son was rubbing my stomach, and my daughter was on the other side. They're my angels."

Christelyn Karazin has four angels of her own. She had the first with her boyfriend while she was in college; they never married. Her last three came after she married another man and became a writer and homemaker in an affluent Southern California suburb.

In September, Karazin, who is black, marshaled 100 other writers and activists for the online movement No Wedding No Womb, which she calls "a very simplified reduction of a very complicated issue."

"I just want better for us," Karazin says. "I have four kids to raise in this world. It's about what kind of world do we want?"

"We've spent the last 40 years discussing the issues of how we got here. How much more discussion, how many more children have to be sacrificed while we still discuss?"

The reaction was swift and ferocious. She had many supporters, but hundreds of others attacked NWNW online as shallow, anti-feminist, lacking solutions, or a conservative tool. Something else about Karazin touched a nerve: She's married to a white man and has a book about mixed-race relationships coming out.

Blogger Tracy Clayton, who posted a vicious parody of NWNW's theme song, said the movement focuses on the symptom instead of the cause. □

**GATES***Continued from Front Page*

"This is not a social thing. This is combat effectiveness," Gen. James Amos said. That hesitation could be enough to give senators permission not to act, activists fear.

The House has passed legislation repealing "don't ask, don't tell," but it has not yet seen a vote in the full Senate, where Democrats don't have the votes to overcome a Republican filibuster. Democratic leaders says they are trying to reach a deal across the aisle now that Election Day has passed.

"The Senate should call up the defense bill reported out of committee and pass it before it goes home for the year," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "If the president, Majority Leader Reid, Secretary Gates and a handful of Republican senators are committed to passing the comprehensive defense bill, there is ample time to do so."

Gay activists worry the repeal could be stripped from the bill that funds the Pentagon.

"Any talk about a watered down defense bill, whereby the 'don't ask' revisions would be stripped out, is unacceptable and offensive to the gay and lesbian service members who risk their lives everyday," said Sarvis, whose organization provides legal services for gays and lesbians who face discharge.

Obama on Wednesday also said he wanted a repeal before the new Congress arrives.

"This should not be a partisan issue," he said. "You've

got a sizable portion of the American people squarely behind the notion that folks who are willing to serve on our behalf should be treated fairly and equally."

A Gallup poll in May found 70 percent of American favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly.

The legislative countdown comes as a parallel effort to end the ban continues in court. Last month, the Pentagon was forced to lift its ban on openly serving gays for eight days after a federal judge in California ordered the military to do so. The Justice Department has appealed, and a federal appeals court granted a temporary stay of the injunction.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, is in the midst of a study of how it would implement a repeal should Congress act. Leaders of that effort have said a hasty pace and inadequate protections for gay and lesbian military members could be a disaster. The White

House had hoped lawmakers would delay action until the Pentagon had completed its study so fellow Democrats would not face criticism that they moved too quickly or too far ahead of public opinion in this election year. House Democrats would not wait. Administration officials joined the negotiations to make certain a repeal was not done too quickly.

Obama, Gates and Adm. Michael Mullen - the top uniformed military official in the country - have spoken in favor of repeal but have emphasized that it must be paced. The White House's favored plan could give the Pentagon years to implement the repeal process and would require the approval of Obama, Gates and Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In a speech last year at the Army War College, Gates noted that the 1948 executive order for racial integration took five years to implement.



**FILE** - In this July 4, 2009 file photo, military personnel join the march during an annual gay pride parade in central London organized by Pride London, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender charity. Most of America's closest allies opted years ago to allow gays to serve openly in their militaries. As U.S. policymakers wrestle with the issue, there's sharp disagreement over whether those allies' experiences are relevant to the debate.

(AP Photo/Akira Suemori, File)

"I'm not saying that's a model for this, but I'm saying that I believe this is something that needs to be done very, very carefully," he told the audience.

"Don't ask, don't tell" was imposed by a 1993 law intended as a compromise between President Bill Clinton, who wanted to lift

the ban on gays entirely, and a reluctant Congress and military that said doing so would threaten order.

Under the policy, the military can't ask recruits their sexual orientation. In turn, service members can't say they are gay or bisexual, engage in homosexual activity or marry a member of the same sex. □



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# Calif. mother IDs missing daughter's bracelet



Investigators with the Los Angeles County Coroner carry out a forensic dig in a canyon in the Santa Clarita Valley, Calif., on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2010. Bones and clothing found Wednesday in Santa Clarita Canyon were believed to be the remains of Lysie Ekelund, a 20-year-old Fullerton College student. DNA testing and X-rays will be used to confirm the identity.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

FULLERTON, Calif. — The mother of a Southern California woman who vanished almost 10 years ago said Saturday a bracelet found on recently unearthed remains belonged to her daughter. Lysie Ekelund, a 20-year old Fullerton College student who

disappeared in 2001.

"I gave it to her when she was 10 years old," Ekelund said. "I still wear the exact same bracelet."

Authorities believe the remains uncovered this week are those of Lysie Ekelund. Nancy Ekelund said coroner's officials were expected to formally confirm the identity of the body next week.

Christopher McAmis is Lysie Ekelund vanished

after going to San Diego with McAmis and two fellow Fullerton College students on Feb. 17, 2001, authorities said. McAmis had been considered a person of interest in Ekelund's disappearance but was not arrested until last week. The 31-year-old Fullerton construction worker was charged with murder and remained jailed without bail. □

suspected of strangling her and burying her in a canyon 50 miles north of Los Angeles in Santa Clarita, where he directed investigators to look, Los Angeles County sheriff's officials said. McAmis said he used a tractor to dig a 4-foot grave in the canyon where he had done construction work, officials said.

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## With \$30M gift, Pa. college seeks to be university

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. — In the high-pressure world of educational fundraising, tiny Delaware Valley College has seemingly hit the lottery: A local philanthropic group is giving the school an estimated \$30 million in property and cash. The generous gift from the Warwick Foundation of Bucks County is large by nearly any standard. But it's considered transformational for the suburban Philadelphia college, which was founded more than a century ago as a farm school for immigrant youths and is now on track to become a full-fledged university. The donation announced in September includes a 400-acre farm worth about \$15 million; a \$10 million endowment to care for the land; and \$5 million to support the college's long-term academic vision.

Especially in a struggling economy, the gift represents a "tremendous psychological asset" that should help attract talented leaders and educators, school President Joseph Brosnan said. It will also provide years of financial stability to the tuition-dependent school and help officials better publicize its many non-agricultural offerings, he said.

"We have been known as that little old farm school in Doylestown," Brosnan said. "(People) haven't been able to see the other programs." Warwick Foundation President Betsy Gemmill was already a fan of Delaware Valley when negotiations for the gift began about two years ago. Her father had once been chairman of the board at the school, which is about 10 miles from the family's farm in Warwick Township. Gemmill said Brosnan sealed the deal with an ambitious agenda to add graduate programs and attain university status while retaining the school's agricultural heritage. The donation essentially doubles the institution's \$16 million endowment and its land holdings.

"The college really has put together a fairly comprehensive strategic plan," Gemmill told The Associated Press. "To me, it was a plan of

growth."

[Related: Rookie athlete makes big donation to alma mater]

Del Val, as it is known, was founded by American Rabbi Joseph Krauskopf at the suggestion of writer Leo Tolstoy, according to college archives. Krauskopf met the author of "War and Peace" on an 1894 trip to Russia, during which Tolstoy said U.S. immigrants would be better off tilling soil than living in cramped industrial cities.

In 1896, Krauskopf bought 118 acres of land about 25 miles north of Philadelphia. The National Farm School, open to all faiths, began the following year with 10 students.

The school has since broadened its offerings to include subjects like biology, business and criminal justice.

Today, more than half its 1,700 undergraduates are non-farming students but the agrarian image persists.

"People think it's just for ag. We're trying to definitely move away from that," said Del Val senior Dariyen Carter, 21, of Baltimore. "We really need to have a well-rounded institution." Brosnan's strategic plan includes reorganizing the college's 27 majors into three undergraduate schools; he also wants to add a doctoral and three more master's programs to enable Del Val to seek university status from state and regional accreditation agencies.

Brosnan said officials are still deciding the best educational use for the Gemmill farmland.

"Money without a plan doesn't do any good whatsoever," Brosnan said.

Sound planning is crucial to avoid squandering the gift, philanthropy experts say. Brosnan is very aware of the cautionary tale of tiny Polytechnic University in New York, which despite a \$177 million bequest in 1998 ended up in dire financial straits due in part to poor planning. The school merged with New York University in 2008. □



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BONAIRE - Continental Airlines and Air Jamaica are expanding services to the island of Bonaire making it easier for those planning a Caribbean vacation to the Dutch island paradise.

Continental Airlines recently inked a deal with the island of Bonaire to launch weekly non-stop round-trip flights from Houston to Bonaire starting on December 16, 2005 and non-stop Saturday service from its Newark hub to Curacao, Bonaire's neighboring island. Similarly, Air Jamaica announced plans to continue its Saturday service to/from Montego Bay to Bonaire effective September 3rd. Continental Airlines, the world's sixth largest airline serving 150 domestic and 130 international destinations, more than any other carrier in the world offers more than 3000 daily departures throughout the US, Europe, and Asia with its partner airline services, Continental Express, and Continental Connection.

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*Continued on Page 11*

## Anniversaries marked at Renaissance Resorts

ORANJESTAD – Two hundred and ninety years of experience were marked when Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino celebrated the anniversaries of its employees this week, over sumptuous lunch at the Renaissance Convention Center.

Seventeen employees marked their 5th anniversary, six employees denoted their 10th anniversary, including Al Trivedi of the Executive Office, seven employees remembered their 15th anniversary and two reached their 20th anniversary celebration, as fresh and as motivated as they were on their first day on the job.

The convention center culinary team prepared an exceptional lunch buffet loaded with gourmet specialties to commemorate the day. General manager Paul



Gielen posed with members of his staff on the occasion of their anniversary celebration

while Queta Werleman asked them to come forward to receive their plaque.

Pictured here, two hundred and ninety years of hospitality commemorated. □



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*The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa*

# Charity Golf Classic Concludes at Tierra del Sol



WEST PUNT – The 3th local golfers who signed up to raise funds for the local cancer foundations and the World



Childhood Foundation.

The tournament was held at Tierra Del Sol golf course on November 6th, with a shot gun start at 12:30 p.m. The award ceremony, charity auction with valuable offers, and reception was also held at Tierra del Sol, catered by Ventanas del Mar restaurant, at the end of the much-enjoyed day.

The teams of Compra NV 1, Compra NV 2 and Cooper Tires earned the first three top spots among winners with Orlando Rasmijn, Ray Perez, Harold Hagens and Kim Tilleman recognized as closest to the pin on hole 3, 7, 13, and 15 respectively.

As a special feature, the tournament offered five, hole-in-one opportunities with prizes by Diamond International, which unfortunately, remained unclaimed.

Bob Curtis, Director of Resort Operations, and golf pro Adam Williamson conducted the award ceremony





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presenting several prizes such as dinner for two at Blossoms restaurant, a cell phone by Digicel, a massage at Larimar Spa, and dinner for two at J.H. Yee Asian Bistro to the closest to the pin winners. The tournament's winning team received weekend stays at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa combined with dinner at the Sunset Grille. Second prize winners received commemorative breast cancer Pandora bracelets and third place winners were given

dinner for two at Laguna restaurant. Special guests at the award ceremony were the fresh contestants of the Miss Aruba pageant scheduled for the beginning of December. Romar Trading entertained by pouring St Germaine cocktails, with elderflower liqueur. Other companies generously supporting the tournament include Caribbean Mercantile Bank with two teams, Fides Rae Ins Co, Marriott Aruba



Resort, Westin Aruba Resort, Furmanite with two teams, Digicel, De Palm Tours, Hyatt Regency, Valero Aruba Refinery, PwC, and Brown Lawyers. Other gifts were received from the Aruba Tourism Authority, Don De Veer, Aruba Aloe, 44 Graphics, Hooters, Playa Trading, Licores Aruba, Aruba Trading Company and Marketing Plus NV. □



# The Crystal and Seaport Casinos honor employee anniversaries



ORANJESTAD – Rosendo Koolman enjoyed introducing Casino long-time employees to a festive lunch-crowd at the Renaissance Convention Center. In total, the occasion acknowledged one hundred



and eighty five years of experience as 2 casino employees celebrated their 5th anniversary, 9 casino employees remembered their 15th anniversary and 2 casino employees reached their 20th anniversary on the job. Koolman reports that the

casino is proud of its people who found a career that fits their purpose and passion, in line with the skills and talents, which resulted in stability and long term commitment to Meta Corp, an employer of choice on the island. □

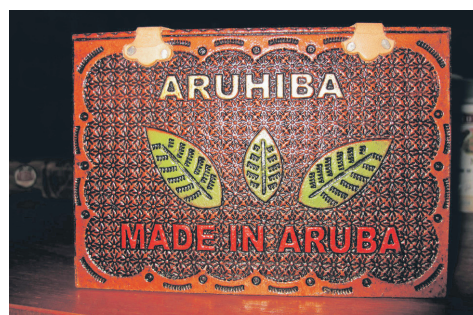
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five



cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. At the Tamarijn Hotel open on Monday till Saturday 12pm to 8pm. And on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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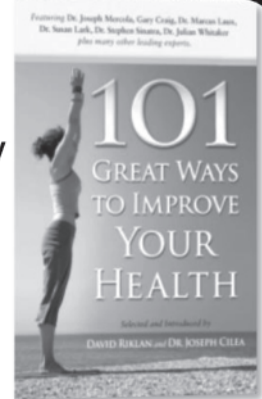
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Co-authored by Aruba's  
**Carlos Viana, OMD, CCN**



## MYANMAR

*Continued from Front Page*

Voter turnout appeared light at many polling stations in Yangon, the country's largest city. Some residents said they were staying home as rumors circulated that bombs would explode. By late Sunday night, some of the opposition politicians who took part in the elections were expressing dismay at what they called widespread cheating. The junta and its proxy party "are so shameless in their utter craving for power that they brazenly rig votes with complete disregard for the people and the credibility of the election," said Khin Maung Swe, a top official with the National Democratic Force.

"They are desperately robbing votes." Several parties say many voters were already strong-armed into casting ballots for the junta's proxy party in a system of advance voting. Khin Maung Swe said there were also problems with voter rolls and ballot counting, though he gave no details. It was not clear when full results would be announced — officials would only say they would come "in time." And no matter the election results, the constitution sets aside 25 percent of parliamentary seats for military appointees. Soe Aung, deputy secretary of the Thailand-based Forum for Democracy in Burma, called on the

international community not to recognize the election results "because this is a sham election. ... The parliament which will (be formed) after this election will be a rubber-stamp parliament to endorse what another military council will be doing against the will of its own people." Such criticism was echoed internationally. President Barack Obama told college students in Mumbai, India, that Sunday's elections were "anything but free and fair." Obama, who is on a tour of Asia, said that "for too long the people of Burma have been denied the right to determine their own destiny." Few observers expected

surprises from the election. "The only real surprise result would be that one pro-establishment party would beat an even more pro-establishment party," British Ambassador Andrew Heyn told The Associated Press on Sunday. He was referring to the USDP's closest rival, the National Unity Party, which is backed by supporters of the country's previous military ruler. Heyn called the election a "huge missed opportunity" for democratic change. Some voters and experts on Myanmar said that despite the election's wealth of problems, creating a parliament for the first time in more than two decades might provide an opening for eventual change in this deeply troubled nation, which despite its political isolation has become a crossroads for Asian trade and an important natural-gas supplier to energy-starved China and India. "The elections, for all their farcical elements, have already achieved something: Burmese people are listening and talking more about politics than they have for a long time," said Monique Skidmore of the Australian National University. "It seems likely that the very small public political space will be widened and this is probably the best outcome we can hope for from the election."

Optimists say even a handful of opposition parliamentarians could allow for limited

government oversight, and pave the way for more political change eventually. It was difficult to discern any voting trends Sunday night, though balloting passed quietly, with no reports of violence or major protests. The regime earlier banned foreign journalists and international poll monitors from the election. Riot police were deployed at a handful of key junctions, though the junta appeared anxious to keep its massive security apparatus in the background on voting day. Very few soldiers could be seen on the streets of the capital.

Democracy advocates are now looking toward the coming few days. Officials have indicated that Suu Kyi could be freed from house arrest sometime after the election, perhaps as early as Nov. 13.

Suu Kyi has been locked up in her Yangon villa on and off ever since the ruling generals ignored the 1990 poll results. They hold a total of some 2,200 political prisoners.

While some analysts see Suu Kyi as increasingly marginalized, Skidmore dismissed that idea.

"From the moment she is released she will begin campaigning against the military regime, the new constitution, and the results of the elections," Skidmore said. She added that Suu Kyi's ability to mobilize activists and make use of the Internet and mobile telephones "will hasten the changes that will come from the election." □



## "FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

# Canada considering staying in Afghanistan

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) — Canada's defense minister said Sunday that Canada is considering a U.S. request to keep troops in Afghanistan past 2011, but switch them from a combat to a training role.

Defense Minister Peter MacKay said the troops would not remain in Afghanistan's volatile southern Kandahar province.

"It will be out of Kandahar and will be behind the wire, a noncombat role," MacKay said.

Parliament has mandated that the combat mission end in 2011.

Canada has about 2,900 troops in Afghanistan. More than 150 Canadian soldiers have been killed and more than 1,500 have been wounded since Canada first sent troops to support the U.S.-led invasion after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The U.S. has been hoping for months that Canada would not pull its troops out of Afghanistan and now it appears almost certain that Canada will announce it will stay albeit in a different role.

"As we transition out of the combat mission we are considering the options to provide aid, development and behind the wire training in a non combat role," said Dimitri Soudas, the top spokesman for Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

MacKay said Ottawa is not prepared to say how many troops might stay, but said NATO has identified a shortfall of about 900 troops to conduct training. He said

about 400 Canadian soldiers do training now.

He said Prime Minister Stephen Harper would have more to say in the coming weeks in the run-up to the Nov. 18 NATO summit in Portugal. Harper told U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton earlier this year that Canada's military mission in Afghanistan will end in 2011 despite U.S. hopes of an extension.

MacKay hosted a variety of foreign politicians, diplomats and academics at the Halifax International Security Forum over the weekend.

At the forum, Republican Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who both sit on the Senate Armed Services Committee, on Saturday urged Canada to keep its troops in Afghanistan past 2011 in a training role. Canada increased its deployment in Afghanistan after declining a U.S. request to send troops to Iraq. Canadian troops assumed responsibility for Kandahar in 2005. Harper has previously said Canada has done its part by serving in Afghanistan's most dangerous province, a Taliban stronghold.

Canadians have long been concerned about the toll in Afghanistan. The bodies of all Canadian soldiers who die there are flown to Ontario and driven to a Toronto morgue before their bodies are returned to their hometowns. Canadians often line the overpasses of Highway 401 — now known as the "Highway of Heroes" — to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers. □



Defense Minister Peter MacKay, left, and U.S. Senator John McCain attend the Halifax International Security Forum in Halifax on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010. The three-day event addresses a wide range of security challenges facing the world and possible strategies to cope with them.

Associated Press

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# German riot police clash with anti-nuke protesters

DAVID RISING

Associated Press

DANNENBERG, Germany (AP) — Activists rappelled down from a high bridge, broke through police lines and chained themselves to German train tracks Sunday, trying to halt a shipment of nuclear waste as they protested Chancellor Angela Merkel's plans to keep using nuclear energy.

The train, which set off Friday from a reprocessing plant in France, slowly headed toward the northern town of Dannenberg, where containers carrying 123 tons of reprocessed nuclear waste were to be loaded onto trucks for the final leg of their journey to a disputed storage site at Gorleben.

Riot police tried to stop up to 4,000 protesters making their way through the woods onto the tracks near Dannenberg ahead of the nuclear waste train. Police used water cannons and pepper spray and wrestled with activists to break up the protest, but some still reached the rail line.

Some protesters poured flammable liquid on a police vehicle and set it alight. Anti-nuclear protests have gained new momentum from Merkel's decision to extend the life of Germany's 17 atomic power plants by an average of 12 years.

Merkel says the move is necessary to keep energy



Anti-nuclear activists stand in front of the German riot police during clashes near Leitstade, northern Germany, on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010. The Castor, a transport of atomic waste from the French reprocessing plant La Hague to the nuclear depot in Gorleben will be expected in Gorleben on Sunday.

cheap and readily available as Germany works to ramp up its renewable energy sources. Critics call the nuclear plan a windfall for Germany's biggest energy companies. Nuclear energy has been unpopular since fallout from the 1986 Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine drifted over Germany, and the country has no plans to build new nuclear plants. Early Sunday in central Germany, a pair of activists rappelled off a 250-foot-high bridge holding an anti-nuclear banner, while about 50 others crowded onto the tracks, according to federal police spokeswoman Cora Thiele.

The protest stopped the train, but police hauled the demonstrators away and the train continued on. The two protesters who rappelled from the bridge and three others were taken into custody, Thiele said.

Some 50 to 60 tractors blocked the main road between Dannenberg and Gorleben but they were cleared away by police. The roughly 12-mile road was lined with police trucks. The train was stopped twice more by people on the tracks. In one case, police had to dislodge three protesters who had chained themselves to the line.

*Associated Press* Authorities gave no schedule for the shipment. The train slowly made its way Sunday evening along the single-track branch line that ends at Dannenberg, but it was unclear when it would arrive. A large group of demonstrators sat on the track near the village of Harlingen. Wolfgang Ehmke, a spokesman for a local anti-nuclear group, said blockades aimed "to delay the arrival of the shipment and at the same time mess up the timetable for the (government's) nuclear policy." He called on both sides to refrain from violence. On Saturday, at least 25,000 people — organizers gave the

figure as more than 50,000 — demonstrated peacefully outside Dannenberg, the biggest protest ever against the shipments.

Activists say neither the waste containers nor the Gorleben site, a temporary storage facility, are safe. The waste is stored in a warehouse near a disused salt mine that has been earmarked as a possible permanent storage site.

Protests against the regular waste shipments faded somewhat after a previous government embarked a decade ago on plans to phase nuclear power out entirely by 2021 — but this year Merkel's government decided to extend the life of the nuclear plants. Parliament approved the plan last month.

Germany receives waste shipments roughly every year under an agreement that sees spent fuel sent to France for reprocessing and returned for storage. Safety measures for the shipment involved sealing the solid nuclear waste in glass that is in turn encased in 16-inch-thick steel containers. Merkel calls nuclear power a "bridging technology."

Decisions such as keeping nuclear plants running "may be unpopular at the moment, but they will pay off," Merkel was quoted as telling Focus weekly. "They are necessary for us also in future to be a successful economic center." □



Workers stand among debris in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, Italy, Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010. The site was closed at the time and nobody was injured. The office of Pompeii's archaeological superintendent said the collapse occurred Saturday at around 6 a.m. Attendants opening the site saw the collapse about an hour later. The 430-square-foot space was used by gladiators to train before going to fight in a nearby amphitheater. Pompeii was destroyed in A.D. 79 by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius that killed thousands of people and buried the city in 20 feet of volcanic ash.

*Associated Press*

## Italy: More building collapses at Pompeii possible

ROME (AP) — More buildings inside the ancient Roman city of Pompeii could collapse, Italy's culture minister said Sunday, a day after a 2,000-year-old house once used by gladiators disintegrated into rubble. The collapse Saturday at one of Italy's main tourist attractions was a source of embarrassment for the government and the country. President Giorgio Napolitano said it was a "disgrace for Italy" and demanded an explanation.

Culture Minister Sandro Bondi, who went to Pompeii to survey the damage on Sunday, warned that other buildings could also fall, according to Italian news agencies. Given the number of buildings that need restoration, further damage is virtually "inevitable," said Daniela Leone, a spokeswoman for Pompeii's archaeological superintendence.

"This is a vast area that requires maintenance,

resources," she said.

The house that collapsed on Saturday was used by gladiators to train before going to fight in a nearby amphitheater, as well as by other athletes. It was also a storehouse for weapons and armor.

It was believed to have been built not long before Pompeii was destroyed in A.D. 79 by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which killed thousands of people and buried the city in 20 feet of volcanic ash.

The house was also partially destroyed during World War II, and the roof and some of the walls had been rebuilt.

Bondi suggested that water infiltration following heavy rains and the heavy roof added during the postwar restoration were to blame.

However, he said some frescoes on the lower parts of the walls may be saved, and urged more government funds for Pompeii. □

# The Socialite Network: UK's Queen joins Facebook

DAVID STRINGER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II is now on Facebook — but she's not going to be your friend.

Britain's queen has launched a series of official pages offering the website's 500 million users daily updates on her engagements, the royal household said.

The 84-year-old British monarch will be featured in videos, photos and news items on the site, which will be available starting Monday, alongside other members of the country's royal family, including Princes William and Harry.

Users will be able leave messages or comments for Buckingham Palace on the site and find details of royal events close to their homes.

However, because the pages will be corporate — and not a personal account — people won't be able to request to become friends with the queen.

A royal official said the queen had personally approved the plan, but acknowledged she has not

actually used the site herself.

"The decision went right up to the queen," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to discuss the plan. "If you are going to have an online presence in 2010, you just have to be on Facebook."

The Facebook page is the queen's latest social media venture — the royal family already have an account on the Flickr photography website, joined Twitter in 2009 and set up a video channel on YouTube in 2007.

Buckingham Palace set up its own website in 1997, which now allows people to apply for palace jobs online, track the royal family via Google Maps or read details in a section devoted to the queen's prized corgi dogs.

Her Facebook site will include Britain's court circular, the official daily record of the royal family's engagements. It lists all royal diary appointments from the previous day and was created by George III in 1803, reportedly after he became frustrated with inaccurate newspaper reports. □



In this undated photo provided by Britain's Buckingham Palace Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II's facebook page is seen. The 84-year-old British monarch will be featured in videos, photos and news items on the site, which will be available from Monday, alongside other members of the country's royal family, including Princes William and Harry.

Associated Press

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# Settlers got sweet land deals in east Jerusalem

DIAA HADID

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP)

— A string of Israeli governments has helped cement the Jewish presence in Arab areas of Jerusalem by selling or leasing property to settler groups at bargain prices, court documents released Sunday show.

The establishment of these Jewish enclaves appears meant to make partition of Jerusalem along ethnic lines — generally seen as a key aspect of any future peace deal — exceedingly difficult.

Buildings were sold to settler groups in and around the sensitive Old City of Jerusalem at a fraction of the going market rates by governments that were involved in peace talks with the Palestinians, who claim those same areas. Sharing Jerusalem is one of the touchiest issues facing Mideast negotiations. Several previous rounds have broken down over the fate of the holy city.

A key sticking point is a hilltop in the walled Old City, where the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound sits atop the ruins of the biblical Jewish Temples. Both sides claim the site.

The future of the rest of the Old City and its surroundings is just as contentious.

The Old City is divided into four quarters — Muslim, Jewish, Christian and Armenian — but in past years, populations mixed. In 1948, during the war that followed Israel's creation, Jordan captured the Old City and expelled its Jews. Israel took the Old City back in the 1967 Mideast war, annexed it and re-established the Jewish Quarter, where today about 4,000 Jews live alongside about 30,000 Palestinians in the rest of the old areas.



An Israel security man guards on a house, owned by Jewish settlers, in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010. Court documents show that Israel's government sold or leased properties in Arab areas of east Jerusalem to settlers at low prices and helped them cement a Jewish presence in disputed areas of the holy city.

The annexation has not been internationally recognized. Palestinians claim east Jerusalem, including the Old City, as the capital of the state they hope to establish. Palestinian negotiators have said they will not compromise over Jerusalem. Formulas have been put forward to divide the city ethnically — placing Jewish neighborhoods in Israel and Arab sections in the new Palestinian state. But over the years, ultra-nationalist Israeli settler groups have been buying up buildings outside the Jewish Quarter. The documents released Sunday show how the Israeli government has been helping them with bargain land prices.

The documents refer to 11 such deals, but an anti-settlement activist said there are dozens more.

Some of the properties passed on to the settler groups once belonged to Jews but fell into state hands. Arab families had

since built on the land but were evicted from the properties when settler groups seized control.

Other properties belonged to Arab residents whom the state deemed to be “absentee owners.”

In one case, a 40,000 square feet building just outside the Old City was sold to Jewish settlers in October 2006 for \$190,000 — a tiny fraction of its market price. Also that year, an 11,000 square feet building in the Old City was sold for of \$69,000, less than the cost of a tiny one-bedroom apartment elsewhere in the city. Other deals featured similar low prices.

Encouraging Jews to live all over Jerusalem has been a common policy of Israeli governments for decades. Jewish neighborhoods built around the outskirts of east Jerusalem are home to more than 180,000 Israelis today. But the purchase of property in the heart of Palestinian sections raises

tough questions.

“This has tremendous implications on both the political future and also on (Jerusalem's) current stability,” said Orly Noy of Ir Amim, an Israeli group that supports coexistence in Jerusalem. Ir Amim was not involved in the court battle to obtain the documents but closely followed developments.

“The Israeli government is officially obligated to resolve the (Mideast) conflict through negotiations, but we find out at the same time — left-wing and right-wing governments alike have been cooperating with organizations whose sole goal is to prevent those very same negotiations from succeeding,” she said.

On the other hand, if borders are agreed on, a small number of Israelis in a few dozen buildings on the Palestinian side would not likely scuttle implementation of a peace

accord. Israel removed 8,000 settlers from the Gaza Strip in 2005 when it withdrew.

The documents were released to anti-settlement activist Dror Etkes after a three-year court battle with the Israel Land Administration, which oversees almost all the country's land.

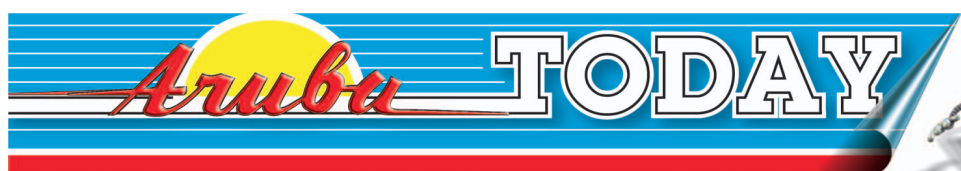
Etkes wanted the government agency to detail its deals with two shadowy settler groups, Elad and Ateret Cohanim, which have helped move Jews into Arab sections of east Jerusalem.

The documents refer to 11 properties that were leased or sold from 2003 to 2008 — by Israeli governments who were, at some points, negotiating with Palestinians to strike a Mideast peace deal.

Etkes said he believed the state was withholding information on other deals because nearly two decades ago, a government-appointed commission identified 68 land transactions involving the state and the two settler groups.

All the properties referred to in the court documents lie in the Old City, and the nearby valley of Silwan, where some 2,000 Jewish settlers are wedged in among about 30,000 Palestinian residents. Violence is common. In September Palestinians rioted for days in east Jerusalem after an armed guard working for Jewish settlers shot dead an Arab man in unclear circumstances.

The government agency refused to comment to The Associated Press on Sunday. Ateret Cohanim director Daniel Luria responded that all the group's land transactions are according to Israeli law. Elad did not respond to a request for comment. □



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TCU tight end Corey Fuller (86) and TCU running back Waymon James (32) celebrate after James scored a touchdown during the second half of their NCAA college football game against Utah, Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010, in Salt Lake City. TCU won 47-7.

Associated Press

## TCU moves to No. 3, Auburn No. 2 in AP poll

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK — TCU's impressive victory over the weekend not only lifted the Horned Frogs to No. 3 in The Associated Press poll, it caused Auburn to move up behind top-ranked Oregon and Boise State to fall two spots to No. 4.

The Horned Frogs won 47-7 at Utah on Saturday in a matchup of unbeaten Mountain West Conference teams. With that thoroughly dominant performance, TCU drew so much support away from Boise State, it caused movement in the top four for the first time in three weeks. Oregon received 49 first-place votes and 1,484 points, only three points less than last week. Auburn received the exact amount of first-place votes (two) and points as last week. TCU received two first-place votes, same as last week, but jumped 41 points to 1,391. Boise State kept its seven first-place votes, but dropped 37 points to 1,366.

Continued on Page B4

## Haile Gebrselassie's retirement overshadows NYC Marathon

RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — World-record holder Haile Gebrselassie announced his retirement after dropping out of the New York City Marathon on a day that signaled the rise of a new Ethiopian star.

Gebrselassie's countryman Gebre Gebremariam won the men's title on his marathon debut. Kenya's Edna Kiplagat was another surprise winner in the women's race. Edison Pena, who less than a month ago was in a collapsed Chilean mine awaiting rescue, ran and walked on a bad knee to complete the 26.2 miles about 20 minutes ahead of his 6-hour goal. Pena, who jogged regularly underground

during the 69-day ordeal, covered the last 12 miles of the race with bags of ice on his swollen knees.

At the finish, the 34-year-old was draped in a Chilean flag as his favorite music — Elvis — played over the speakers.

"I'm here because I want people to feel free," Pena said. "I want them to strive for their own freedom. That's why it was worthwhile for me to come this far to run a marathon. ... I struggled with myself, I struggled with my own pain, but I made it to the finish line."

Gebrselassie, the only runner to ever finish a marathon in less than 2 hours, 4 minutes, pulled out on the 16th mile with a right knee injury.

Continued on Page B5



Gebre Gebremariam, of Ethiopia, smiles at the awards ceremony after winning the men's division of the New York City Marathon with a time of 02:08:14, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010, in New York.

Associated Press



## CUP RUNNETH OVER

Hamlin takes Cup lead with 2 to go

Denny Hamlin does a burnout after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010.

Associated Press  
Page B3

## Molinari holds steady to win HSBC Champions

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SHANGHAI (AP)—Francesco Molinari outlasted Lee Westwood in a spirited duel Sunday in the HSBC Champions for a one-shot victory to capture his first World Golf Championship and continue a memorable year for Italy.

Molinari closed with a 5-under 67 at Sheshan International for his first win this season, and only the second of his career. He spoiled the debut of Westwood as the world's No. 1 player,

although the Englishman put up a fight worthy of his ranking.

Two shots behind on the par-5 18th, Westwood hit a powerful drive that left him only an iron into the green. He had a 25-foot eagle putt to force a playoff, but the ball stayed left of the hole the entire way, and Westwood had to settle for a 67.

It was only his second stroke-play tournament in three months, and Westwood played the final 43 holes without a bogey.

Molinari finished at 19-under 269.

"It wasn't easy," the Italian said. "I'm just really proud of the way I played and the way I handled myself. Lee is No. 1 in the world, and he was playing some fantastic golf. It was a great finish at the end."

Tiger Woods closed with a 68 and tied for sixth, 13 shots behind. It was only his third top 10 of the year, and his best finish since a tie for fourth at the U.S. Open.

Continued on Next Page



**MOLINARI**

*Continued from Page B1*

For the first time in his career, Woods failed to win on the PGA Tour, ending a streak of 14 years.

"That's just the way it goes," Woods said. "It's not like I didn't try. It just didn't happen this year. But I'm pleased with the progress I've made of late. Things are building and heading in the right direction, which is good."

Molinari had not won since the Italian Open four years ago. He became the third Italian to win on the European Tour this year, joining brother Edoardo Molinari and Matteo Manassero. No doubt, the other wins inspired him.

"It makes me work a little harder," Molinari said. "Because I wanted to contribute to this golden

moment of Italian golf."

Molinari, who earned \$1.2 million, moved to No. 14 in the world ranking, three spots ahead of his brother.

Molinari built a two-shot cushion with a birdie on the second, and Westwood twice made clutch putts on the front nine after Molinari had already made birdie. When they reached the back nine, they were well clear of the rest of the pack.

Richie Ramsay of Scotland closed with a 71 and tied for third with Luke Donald, who faltered to a 73. For Ramsay, it was enough to secure a spot in the Race to Dubai finale at the end of the month.

Rory McIlroy had a 67 for a European sweep of the top five spots.

Molinari only had to tap in for par on the final hole for his

67 — it was the third time this week he had the low round of the day — and walked off the course as fireworks lit up the hazy sky over Sheshan International. The tournament was delayed 1 hour, 15 minutes at the start of the final round because of fog.

Westwood found little to complain about. He had a few bad breaks down the stretch, made big putts and whipped everyone in this field except for one player.

"I mean, 18-under par and nine shots clear of third is never too bad," he said. "Just needed the breaks to win and it didn't happen."

The final round turned on the 16th.

Westwood's tee shot on the

288-yard hole was just left of the green, with a pot bunker between him and the front flag. Molinari drove into the left rough, but hit a wedge to about 4 feet. Westwood had to play a delicate flop shot, and he caught it heavy. It didn't clear the bunker, staying in the thick collar of grass, and he had to settle for par.

Molinari made his putt to go two shots up with two holes to play, and it looked as if he was a lock when Westwood pulled his tee shot on the par-3 17th into a bunker, then blasted out 15 feet by the hole. But as he had done all day, Westwood made yet another big putt to save par, then gave himself a chance on the 18th.

His runner-up finish gives

Westwood a larger cushion in the battle for No. 1, although he's still not safe.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson, who shot 73 and tied for 41st, and PGA champion Martin Kaymer, who shot 71 and tied for 30th, are playing next week in the Singapore Open. Woods remains at No. 2 and heads Down Under to defend at the Australian Masters.

"It wasn't really about the rankings," Westwood said. "It was about trying to win this week. The rankings come as a consequence of playing well, and I'm playing well. I know I am. Today is just very typical of how I've played for the last two years." □

## Jiyai Shin wins Mizuno Classic

SHIMA, Japan (AP) — Top-ranked Jiyai Shin won the Mizuno Classic on Sunday for her second LPGA Tour victory of the season and eighth overall, closing with a 5-under 67 for a two-stroke victory over Yani Tseng.

Shin finished at 18 under after opening with rounds of 65 and 66 on the Kintetsu Kashikojima course. The South Korean star, also the 2008 tournament winner in the event also sanctioned by the Japan LPGA, earned \$180,000 to increase her season total to \$1,779,768 and pull within \$3,535 of leader Na Yeon Choi with two events left.

"This morning my feel was a little bit rushed, because I won at the Evian and the last couple of months I didn't win," Shin said. "I have had a lot of chances, but I didn't win. I am waiting all the time for the win. So this morning I felt pressure.

"The first hole I made a birdie and after that I got more confident. But Yani was playing very well."

Tseng, from Taiwan, shot a 66.

"I really tried my best to bring my A-game golf today," said Tseng, a three-time winner this year. "I think I did that very well. Jiyai just played so consistently and she is the greatest player on tour. A very good, competitive player."

Stacy Lewis (68) was third at 15 under, Miki Saiki (70) was 12 under, and Choi (68), Brittany Lincicome (65) and Mika Miyazato (68) followed at 11 under.

Shin, who started the day with a two-stroke lead over Lewis, birdied all four par 5s in her bogey-free final round.

Tseng birdied six of the first 11 holes to tie Shin, but parred the final seven.

"I was really, really nervous and we still had more par-5s," Shin said about Tseng's birdie on No. 11." She is a long hitter. So I was worried about the long par-5s where she can make the easy birdies."

However, Shin took advantage of the par 5s with birdies on Nos. 13 and 16. Her birdie on the par-5 16th gave her a two-shot lead with two holes to play.

"She made a couple of mistakes and I made a really good birdie on 16," Shin said. "It feels good to win."

Tseng leads Japanese star Ai Miyazato by 14 points in the player of the year race. Shin and Choi are tied for third, 18 points behind Tseng. Miyazato, a five-time winner this season, followed her second-round 79 with a 68 to tie for 69th at 3 over — 21 strokes behind Shin. Defending champion Bo Bae Song of South Korea shot a final-round 74 to finish tied for 56th.

Shin is skipping the Lorena Ochoa Invitational next week in Mexico.

"I am going to take it easy for the next couple of weeks and then head to LPGA Tour Championship," Shin said. "I want to play well there because the Tour Championship is the last tournament of the year. If I have good play there it will make a warm winter." □

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## Hamlin takes Cup lead from Johnson with 2 to go

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — Denny Hamlin won at Texas for the second time this season to take over the lead in the closest three-way Chase for the Sprint Cup yet with two races left.

Hamlin moved in front with 29 laps to go, then got a push from Matt Kenseth on the final restart with three laps to go Sunday. Kenseth pushed ahead momentarily before Hamlin got right back in front and went on to his series-best eighth victory of the season.

For Jimmie Johnson, it was more Texas trouble and a bump in his drive for an unprecedented fifth consecutive title while his Hendrick teammate Jeff Gordon got into a fight on the track.

Johnson carried a 14-point lead into Texas, but leaves in second place — 33 behind Hamlin. Kevin Harvick is third, 59 points behind Hamlin.

Johnson lost the points lead with a ninth-place finish in a race where he lost ground on two troublesome pit stops. Despite an unusual crew change late in the race, it was too late to get Johnson back ahead of Hamlin and Harvick. "It was just a long day," Johnson said. "I had speed in the car. We worked our way forward and had issues on pit road. ... We gave away so much track position from the beginning. It's tough to get back where we needed to."

The crew for Gordon took over in the No. 48 pit with Johnson after Gordon was hit and crashed during a caution period.

An angry Gordon hit Jeff Burton with a hard two-handed push after Burton

sent Gordon's car crashing. After getting out of his No. 24 car, Gordon walked from the top to the bottom of the track to confront Burton. Gordon shoved Burton, then took some swings before they were separated by two NASCAR safety officials.

Hamlin won at Texas in April less than three weeks after surgery to repair a torn ACL in his left knee. His first race after the surgery was a 30th-place finish at Phoenix, where the next race is.

Kenseth finished second Sunday, and Mark Martin was third. Harvick was sixth.

Greg Biffle led 11 times for 224 of the 334 laps, but finished fifth. The 20th Cup race at the 1 1/2-mile, high-banked Texas track included a record 33 lead changes.

Last fall, Johnson crashed on the third lap in the fall race at Texas and sat in the garage for more than 100 laps while repairs were made. But he had a huge lead then and it wasn't enough to derail his championship run.

This time, he will be chasing

with two races to go.

"I've lost plenty of championships in the past. This is racing. It doesn't come easy," Johnson said. "You're not going to get what you want every single year and every single weekend."

On consecutive stops in the first half of the race, Johnson lost ground because of problems changing the front right tire. He had climbed to as high as second before the two stops, and restarted after the second troubled stop — during a caution — in 13th place while Hamlin and Harvick both ran in the top six.

Hamlin and Harvick both also had issues on pit road, though not as frequent as Johnson.

After starting 30th, the lowest of the top three Chase drivers, Hamlin climbed to 19th in the first 43 laps before coming in during a caution. He got blocked in and had to back up to leave his box, falling to 26th for that restart.

But Hamlin was in the top 10 within 30 laps after that, and stayed there the rest of the day.



Denny Hamlin holds up eight fingers after his eighth win of the season in the NASCAR Sprint Cup auto racing series, at Texas Motor Speedway on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Associated Press

Harvick was running 11th about 60 laps into the race when another caution came out 15 laps after another one. While most everybody else took two tires, Harvick crew chief Gil Martin opted for four and that cost six spots. Team owner Richard Childress came on the radio saying "you can't give up that much track position." Harvick was not happy about it either. Between the two Johnson

stops when there was trouble changing the right front tire, he and Harvick were racing side-by-side for eighth place for several laps. They were still close when another caution came out on lap 152. That is when Harvick restarted in fifth, a spot ahead of Hamlin, while Johnson slipped back to 13th. "I feel terrible for the guys we had to make a change," Johnson said. □

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## AP POLL

*Continued from  
Page B1*

LSU is No. 5, up seven spots, and the highest ranked team with one loss after the Tigers beat Alabama 24-21 on Saturday. The Crimson Tide fell six spots to No. 11. The Southeastern Conference led all leagues with seven

teams in the Top 25. No. 6 Wisconsin, Stanford, Ohio State, Nebraska and Michigan State rounded out the top 10. No. 25 Central Florida (7-2) is ranked for the first time in school history. The Knights have been playing I-A football since 1996.

Penn State coach Joe Paterno is carried off the field by his players after getting his 400th collegiate win over Northwestern 38-21 in an NCAA college football game in State College, Pa., Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010.

*Associated Press*

UCF is a spot behind Florida, which re-entered the rankings this week after falling out three weeks ago for the first time since the final poll of the 2004 season.

The Sunshine State's other two traditional powers, Florida State and Miami, are unranked. Florida State was one of three teams to drop out after a loss this week, joining ACC rival North Carolina State and Baylor.

No. 23 Texas A&M (6-3) moved into the rankings for the first time since early in the 2007 season by beating Oklahoma 33-19.

Alabama is followed in the second 10 by Oklahoma State, Iowa, Arkansas and Utah at No. 15. The Utes dropped nine spots after being routed by TCU, a loss that snapped their 21-game home winning streak. No. 16 Virginia Tech is the only Atlantic Coast Conference team in the poll. No. 17 Mississippi State, Arizona, Oklahoma and Missouri finish off the top 20.

Nevada is No. 21 and No. 22 is South Carolina, which plays at Florida on Saturday for the SEC East championship. □

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**GUIDA BO OIDO**

**NYC MARATHON**

*Continued from Page B1*

"I never think about to retire. But for the first time, this is the day," he said. "Let me stop and do other work after this." Gebremariam was behind Gebrselassie in the large lead pack and encouraged him to keep going.

"I can't, Gebre. You have to move," Gebrselassie urged the younger runner. "You have to reach them."

The 26-year-old Gebremariam became the first man to win New York in his marathon debut since Rod Dixon in 1983. The 2009 cross-country world champion pulled away from Kenya's Emmanuel Mutai in the 24th mile to win in 2 hours, 8 minutes, 14 seconds.

"Even I told to my wife, 'I

can finish this race, but I can't win,'" Gebremariam said. "When I saw in 19 or 17 miles, you know, I can win. We are forward and I saw the pace and listen to my body too, so I can win."

His wife, Werknesh Kidane, is an elite distance runner herself and also planned to make her marathon debut in New York. But she had to pull out because of injury and watched the race back in Ethiopia with their two young sons.

"So maybe next year she'll come and she'll win too," Gebremariam said with a smile.

Another Kenyan, Moses Kigen Kipkosgei, was third. Defending champion Meb Keflezighi of the United States finished sixth.

The 31-year-old Kiplagat won

her first major marathon title in 2:28:20.

"When we were in the 24th mile, I tried to put more effort," she said. "I found myself pulling away from the field, so I was excited when I reached 25 miles because that's when I found I was ahead of the other ladies."

"When I crossed the finish line, I was so happy."

Shalane Flanagan, making her marathon debut, became the first American woman in two decades to finish second. The 2008 Olympic bronze medalist in the 10,000 meters was 20 seconds back. Kim Jones in 1990 was the last American woman to finish in the top two.

Kenya's Mary Keitany, also making her marathon debut, was third.



Chilean miner Edison Pena, center, approaches the finish line with supporters in the New York City Marathon in New York, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010.

*Associated Press*

More than 45,000 runners race through the city's five boroughs. □

# Haile Gebrselassie announces retirement

RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — World-record holder Haile Gebrselassie stunned the running world by announcing his retirement on Sunday after dropping out of the New York City Marathon.

The 37-year-old Ethiopian, widely considered the greatest distance runner ever, pulled out at the 16-mile mark with a right knee injury.

"I never think about to retire. But for the first time, this is the day," Gebrselassie said at a brief news conference afterward. "Let me stop and do other work after this."

Gebrselassie runs two schools and several businesses in Ethiopia, including a car dealership, a cinema and a newly opened hotel. He spoke passionately Friday about improving lives in his country, and about the responsibility that comes with employing others. He has also considered entering politics.

In the days leading up to his NYC Marathon debut, Gebrselassie insisted his training was going well. But in a TV interview minutes before Sunday's

race, he revealed his knee was bothering him. He had an MRI on Saturday that showed fluid and tendinitis in the joint.

"I don't want to complain anymore after this, which means it's better to stop here," he said.

Running with the large lead pack, Gebrselassie pulled up grimacing on the downhill of the Queensboro Bridge.

NYC Marathon organizers had been trying to recruit Gebrselassie for a decade.

He finally agreed to come, saying a win in New York was one achievement missing from his brilliant career. As of Saturday though, it appeared unlikely Gebrselassie would even start the race, New York Road Runners president Mary Wittenberg said. She said he had his knee drained and was given cortisone.

"At that point you realize you might not have the dream finish," she said.

Gebrselassie set the marathon world record of 2:03:59 in Berlin in 2008. He won two Olympic gold medals in the 10,000 meters.

In an interview with The Associated Press in Addis Ababa late last month,



World record holder Haile Gebrselassie, center, of Ethiopia, runs with the men's pack during the New York City Marathon, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010, in New York. Gebrselassie dropped out at mile 16 with a right knee injury.

*Associated Press.*

Gebrselassie insisted he wanted to compete through at least the 2012 London Games. "Why should I retire? Why should I say I will retire in three or four years? You retire the very moment you utter those words," he said then. "I still think about doing more."

Just as one Ethiopian star was retiring, a new one was emerging. Gebre Gebremariam won Sunday's race in his marathon debut at the age of 26.

"Haile is special. Haile is king," Gebremariam said. "So even Haile's retiring, we have to learn so many things from Haile. Haile's a good guy, even in business

and in athletics. So I think we have to push to run more. I'm so disappointed when I

hear this one. Maybe in my country just I have to do something about this." □

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# Federer beats Djokovic to win Swiss Indoors title



Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts after winning the final match against Novak Djokovic from Serbia at the Davidoff Swiss Indoors tennis tournament at the St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010.

Associated Press

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Roger Federer regained his hometown title from Novak Djokovic, beating the defending champion 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in the Swiss Indoors final on Sunday.

The top-seeded Federer broke Djokovic's serve early in the first, and twice in the deciding set to cruise to victory in under two hours.

Basel-born Federer was watched courtside by his parents, his wife Mirka and their 15-month-old twin daughters Myla and Charlene.

"It's very emotional winning at home, it makes it extra special. Because I live here and because the fans are behind me," Federer said.

A former ballboy at the tournament, Federer won three straight Swiss Indoors titles from 2006-08 before Djokovic broke the streak when they met in last year's final.

"It's great to have won it after losing last year. It reminded me of last year's match, but (this time) I got off to a great start in the third set," he said.

Djokovic said he lost "a little bit of balance and focus" in the decider.

"You don't get many chances against Roger when he is on top of you. There was no way back," Djokovic said.

Federer's 65th career singles title lifted him above Pete Sampras into outright fourth position in the modern era. Jimmy Connors leads with 109.

"Results-wise, Roger is the best player ever to play the game," Djokovic said in an on-court interview.

Federer is 4-4 in finals this year after winning titles at the Australian Open, Cincinnati Masters and the Stockholm Open.

The 29-year-old Swiss improved to 12-6

lifetime against Djokovic, and 3-1 this year. His only defeat to the 23-year-old Serb this season came in a five-set U.S. Open semifinal match where he wasted two match points.

Both players had to save two break points in their opening service game. Federer broke in the next when a stretching Djokovic netted a backhand, then held for a 3-1 lead. Federer created a set point with a 124 miles per hour ace. Djokovic stayed alive with a forcing backhand then wasted a break chance by firing a forehand long.

Federer clinched the set with a service winner and celebrated by punching the air and shouting in delight.

Djokovic started the second set strongly and broke for a 2-0 lead when Federer's topspin backhand sailed wide.

He was handed a set-point chance at 5-2 when Federer double-faulted, but the Swiss's serve got him out of trouble.

Serving for the set, Djokovic saved a break point with a service winner then delivered another to level the match.

Into the third, Federer made uncharacteristic errors at the net, but led 3-1 after a double fault from Djokovic.

Federer broke again on his third chance in his opponent's next service game.

He held three match points with a deft volley winner at the net, then clinched the win with a backhand winner down the line. Federer now carries a 57-12 season mark — and No. 1 seeding in the absence with a shoulder injury of top-ranked Rafael Nadal — into the Paris Masters which began Sunday.

It's the last event before the eight-man ATP World Tour Finals being held Nov. 21-28 in London.

Djokovic dropped to 2-2 in 2010 title matches, with wins in Dubai and Beijing and a U.S. Open final loss to Nadal. □



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# Zenyatta falls short in quest for perfection

BETH HARRIS

AP Racing Writer

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP) — Perfection eluded Zenyatta in the Breeders' Cup Classic when American horse racing's superstar lost for the first time on Saturday after 19 consecutive wins.

Blame won by a head in a thrilling finish with the 6-year-old mare, who threaded her way through traffic from last place while the crowd of 72,739 urged her on down the straight under the lights at Churchill Downs.

Hall of Fame jockey Mike Smith blamed himself for the loss. He walked off the track with his head down, dirt stuck to his face.

"It was my fault," he said, sobbing. "She should've won."

It was so close, a matter of inches, the result had to be resolved by a photo — a picture that broke the hearts of not only Zenyatta's owners and trainer but millions of fans around the world.

Blame went to the front in mid-stretch, then fought off another gutty run by Zenyatta, who lagged well behind 11 rivals — all boys — in her

customary style.

Blame ran 1¼ miles in 2:02.28 and paid \$12.40 to win at 5-1 odds. Fly Down was third, while Preakness winner Lookin At Lucky finished fourth.

Zenyatta was the sentimental even-money favorite, playing to the crowd at every chance on her way to the starting gate. She high-stepped her way to the paddock, playfully pawing the ground as they roared. Co-owner Ann Moss held her finger to her lips as a signal for the fans to quiet down.

Zenyatta proved she could beat the boys last year when she rallied from behind to win the \$5 million Classic at Santa Anita. It was one of her 17 wins on synthetic surfaces in her home state of California.

This time, though, she was facing the deepest, most talented field of her career on a surface on which she had limited experience. Still, trainer John Shirreffs had said she preferred it to synthetic tracks.

It was her third time running on dirt; in her two previous races, she beat other girls at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas.



Garrett Gomez, right, reacts after riding Blame to victory during the Classic race at the Breeder's Cup horse races at Churchill Downs Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010, in Louisville, Ky. Mike Smith, left, riding Zenyatta finished second.

*Associated Press*

But Blame owned home-turf advantage. He won twice before on dirt at Churchill, where Zenyatta had never raced.

"She ran an excellent race and just came up a little short," Shirreffs said. "She ran her heart out."

Zenyatta's 19 consecutive

wins tied her for most all-time in the U.S. with Peppers Pride, who retired last year after running against much lesser competition. Peppers Pride never raced outside New Mexico and all her wins came against fillies and mares.

American horses earned 12 victories over the two-day championships, with Europe-based horses winning twice. European import Goldikova successfully defended her title in the \$2 million Mile for the third consecutive year against 10 rivals, including nine boys. Dangerous Midge won the \$3 million Turf, and Pluck won the \$1 million Juvenile Turf. Big Drama led all the way to win the \$2 million Sprint; Chamberlain Bridge won the \$1 million Turf Sprint; and 37-1 long shot Dakota Phone won the \$1 million Dirt Mile. Uncle Mo won the \$2 million Juvenile, giving trainer Todd Pletcher his third win of the weekend.

In the Juvenile Turf, Rough Sailing was euthanized after breaking a major bone in his upper leg when he slipped and fell going into the first turn. Jockey Rosie Napravnik wasn't hurt. □

## Pennetta routs Vandeweghe to give Italy Fed Cup



The Italian team stands near the Fed Cup after beating the United States 3-1 in the Fed Cup tennis finals, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010, in San Diego. From left are captain Corrado Barazzutti, Francesca Schiavone, Flavia Pennetta, Sara Errani, and Roberta Vinci.

*Associated Press*

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Flavia Pennetta thrashed 18-year-old CoCo Vandeweghe 6-1, 6-2 on Sunday to give Italy its second straight Fed Cup final victory over the United States. Pennetta's victory in the fourth singles match gave the Italians

a 3-1 decision in the best-of-five final. Her victory came after Melanie Oudin stunned French Open champion Francesca Schiavone 6-3, 6-1 to keep the United States alive.

Pennetta won two matches during the weekend to carry the Italians. Vandeweghe,

making her Fed Cup debut, lost twice.

Italy beat the United States 4-0 last year. The Italians have won three titles in five years. This is the second straight final the U.S. has played without Venus and Serena Williams, who are out with injuries.

With Billie Jean King watching from the front row, Pennetta won six straight games in the first set after Vandeweghe broke serve in the first game.

In the epic second game, Vandeweghe took a 40-0 lead, helped by an ace on a second serve. But consecutive double faults let Pennetta back in. Seven deuces later, she broke Vandeweghe. On the second match point, Vandeweghe hit a backhand service return out. Pennetta raised her arms over her head, shook hands with Vandeweghe, then joined in a group hug with her teammates and captain

Corrado Barazzutti

In the first match, the 19-year-old Oudin dominated the 30-year-old Schiavone from midway through the first set to pull the United States to 2-1. Oudin said King came into the players' lounge before the match, wished her luck and patted her on the back.

"I heard her cheering," Oudin said. "I was playing for myself, the team and the whole U.S. Sometimes the Fed Cup can bring out the best in people and that's what happened today. "Today is the best I've played in a long time. I felt confident out there."

Said Schiavone: "I feel sad for the team. It's just one point and it's not finished."

Captain Mary Joe Fernandez substituted Oudin for the United States' No. 1 player, Bethanie Mattek-Sands, who cramped up in her loss to Pennetta on Saturday. □

# Miller's back for another season \_ for now

PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

VAIL, Colorado (AP) — Bode Miller's back for the start of another season. Whether he's around for the finish remains a big mystery even to him.

The U.S. skier was swayed from retirement last year by the lure of the Vancouver Olympics, where he won gold, silver and bronze to run his career total to five Winter Games medals.

This year, there's no such enticement dangling out there for him.

He may ski the entire World Cup season. Or he may not. It all depends on how he feels.

"I'm not sure how long I'll race, or if I'll race till the world championships or what," said Miller, of Franconia, New Hampshire. "As of right now, I'm starting."

And where he finishes is anybody's guess.

Miller kept a somewhat low profile after Vancouver as he contemplated his future. He said he didn't so much decide to return to the slopes this season as get swept up in the growing ground swell, preferring to just go with the moment. The next thing he knew he was back on skis, training with the team.

"I didn't make a decision. Everyone else just kind of assumed that I was

racing again," Miller said. "Before I knew it, I was doing training camps and everything was planned."

Miller has long marched to his own beat, a trait that's made him one of the best in the ski business. It's also made him hard to figure out, even though he speaks as freely as he skis.

Sometimes Miller is reflective, giving insightful glimpses into his world of go-for-broke skiing.

Other times, he's reticent, preferring to blame the media for its infatuation with results.

Over the weekend after a training session in Vail, he was a touch of both.

He enjoys being around the energy from the next generation of skiers on the team, but thinks way too much emphasis is placed on podiums.

"The results are a really easy and natural thing to feed on," Miller said. "You can get on someone's (case) when they blow out or when they fail or when they lose. You can pump their tires and jump on board the train when they win."

Miller said he's rarely been driven by results. That's why he's able to straddle the line between control and chaos, taking a gambler's approach to skiing.

The approach served him well in Whistler, where he claimed three medals —



Bode Miller of The United States speeds down the course during the first run of an alpine ski men's World Cup giant slalom race in Soelden, Austria, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010.

Associated Press

gold in super-combined, silver in super-G and bronze in downhill. He's also won 32 times on the World Cup circuit by zooming down courses without worrying about wiping out.

"I've never been very bent on what I accomplish or not," Miller said. "I like racing, I like training, so that's why I'm doing it. It's always been the same. There's nothing different or new there."

Any chance he'll be back for the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014?

"That's pretty far," he said. His teammates wouldn't put it past him, though.

"You never know what's going to happen with him," 2006 Olympic gold medalist Ted Ligety said. "I wouldn't be entirely surprised."

At 33, Miller remains in remarkably good shape, especially considering his all-out approach that has led to plenty of crashes and spills. He's also shed some weight and worked hard on his fitness.

The plan this season revolves around skiing all disciplines, not just the

downhill and super-G.

Last season, he didn't earn a single World Cup point in the giant slalom. He won a world championship in that discipline in 2003.

"Bode came on to the scene in tech and he likes to stay with his roots and he has something to improve in regard to slalom and (giant slalom) right now," U.S. men's technical coach Mike Day said.

Day has known Miller for quite some time. He helped coach a young Miller when the two were at Carrabassett Valley Academy, a ski school in Maine.

He thinks Miller sometimes receives a bad rap for his aggressive style, especially in the waning years of his career.

"His high-risk style was something maybe when he was younger that came out a lot more," Day said. "In the speed events right now, in my opinion, with the experience he has, I don't think it is that high risk. For him, he knows the track well now, he knows tactically what he wants to do.

"In my opinion, he's skiing

in a fashion that's within himself right now."

As for Miller's use of a motor home in Europe, Day doesn't think it should be an issue.

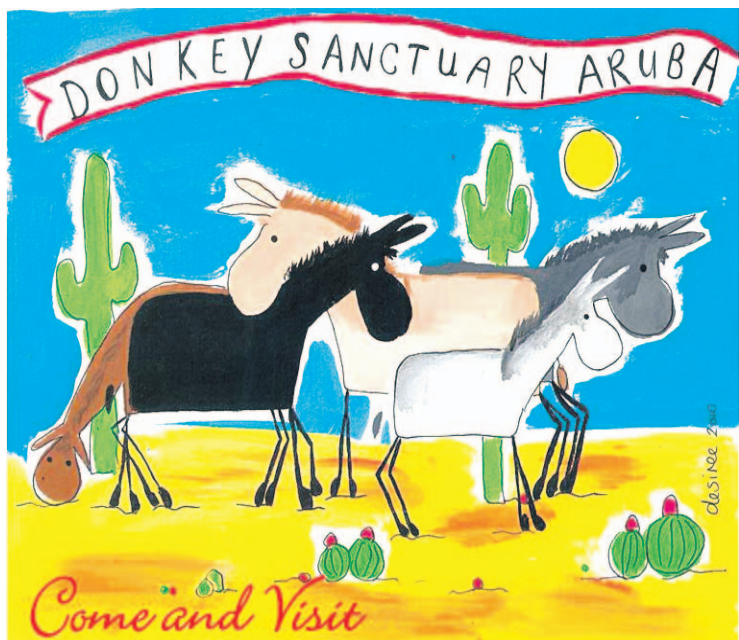
When Miller left the U.S. team several seasons ago, one of the reasons was that the team saw his motor home as a source of division.

That stance has softened.

"Bode is a massive asset to the U.S. Ski Team and to have him back involved with the ski team is critical," Day said. "It only makes sense from a management perspective for him to have some private space."

As for Miller's motivation this season, especially without an Olympics looming, Day simply pointed out toward the hill. "He loves to do this," Day said. "If you love to do something and can still do it competitively, I don't see any reason why you wouldn't continue to do it." Contentment willing, of course.

"As long as I'm having fun and feel good, and my body isn't hurting, I'll keep going," Miller said. □



# Technology a blessing, a curse for remote island

By MARTHA IRVINE,  
AP National Writer

BEAVER ISLAND, Mich. — Mugs Bass doesn't own a computer. She's pretty much dead set against e-mail. Anyone who calls her home on Michigan's remote Beaver Island should be prepared for a busy signal, if she's on her land-line phone. She has no cell.

"When you don't have it, you don't miss it. That's what I say," says the spunky 70-year-old grandmother, who's as comfortable telling jokes at the local pub as she is attending Mass each morning. Technology isn't really her thing. So, it's a small miracle when Bass drives, once a month, to her island's rural health center to sit down in front of a wide-screen television. There, she and a handful of other islanders connect by video conference with a similar group in Charlevoix, Mich., a two-hour ferry ride to the south and east. They chat. They laugh. They cry together.

All of them have, or have had, cancer, Bass included. Hers started with a lump in her breast and has since metastasized to her bones, making her cancer treatable, but incurable, her doctors tell her.

Her own grandmother died of the same disease and went off the island for occasional treatments, as Bass does every few weeks. But that grandmother could hardly have imagined a day when islanders talked openly about their cancer, face-to-face with people in a support group miles away.

It's just one of many ways technology is making this rugged place less remote than it once was and, some would say, more livable for more people.

It also gives islanders hope for new jobs that could attract residents to this island in northern Lake Michigan where the year-round population is about 650 people, give or take a few dozen.

"In the last few years, technology has sprung," says Joe Moore, a retired teacher who's known as one of the

geeks on the island who helps keep computers running. Not that the change has come quickly, or that technology always works perfectly.

That's just how it is on an island where a popular bumper sticker reads "Slow Down! This Ain't The Mainland." It's aimed at anyone who's in too big a hurry, including lead-footed tourists who kick up dust on the many dirt roads or who panic when cell phone service drops.

That's life on wired — or at least, semi-wired — Beaver Island.

So, where is Beaver Island, anyway?

Some Michiganders would show you by holding up their right hands, palms up, and pointing just above the tip of their ring fingers — in other words, just off the far northwest tip of the state's lower peninsula. But that's if even THEY know where it is. While Michigan's Mackinac Island is well known, Beaver Island — much of its 54 square miles covered in lush hardwood forests, sand dunes or pristine inland lakes — is not.

That's partly because it is more difficult to get to, especially in the off season. Ferry service runs from Charlevoix, from April through mid-December. Quick flights in small propeller planes are available year-round, weather permitting. In winter, it's not unusual for islanders to be physically cut off from the mainland, unless an emergency sends the U.S. Coast Guard to their rescue.

So when high-speed Internet service became available to most of the island last spring, this was more than just a convenience. For many, it was a godsend — even if having the service simply meant being able to shop online for just about anything, to play an online game or to watch a newly released movie. For others, it meant being able to stay on the island longer because they had a more reliable connection to do work.

Either way, the outside world was even more readily available, at least virtually.

Schoolchildren on the island were ahead of this curve: The main public school knew how valuable it would be for them to be technologically savvy, especially when students headed to college. In the last decade, those students have been encouraged to take language and advanced-placement classes online. Some in high school also take college courses. They learn how to download and evaluate statistics using palmtop computers.

Connie Boyle, a teacher at the school, helped implement the technology program. She had a vested interest in it, partly because she and her husband decided to raise their daughter on the island after moving here from Chicago 25 years ago.

"We were worried — 'How do you bring up a kid on very tiny Beaver Island?'" Boyle says. An answer came when their daughter, now a freshman at Michigan State University, called recently about her computer class. "Mom, I don't get it," she said. "I'm helping everybody here. We did all this in high school."

Today's state-of-the-art Beaver Island school is quite different from the one Mugs Bass attended. For her, books were the only real window to the mainland, especially in elementary school.

Like many who settled on Beaver Island, her great-grandparents and a grandmother had come from Ireland, to farm, fish and find a better life. Her own father was a dairy farmer. Born Mary Margaret but called "Mugs" as long as she can remember, Bass went to a small school across the field from the family farmhouse.

Until her school combined with another in the island's main town, St. James, she didn't even know some of her own cousins on the island. Other than a trip to the doctor when she was a young child, she didn't go to the mainland of Michigan — "across," as the islanders like to say — until she visited an aunt in Detroit when she was 12 years old.



A photo taken Oct. 9, 2010, from the deck of the Beaver Island ferry, shows the downtown of St. James, Mich., the main town on Beaver Island, Mich. The island in northern Lake Michigan is remote, with a year-round population of only about 650 people - though last spring, Internet service became available to almost all of the island, helping more islanders connect regularly with the outside world. Islanders hope it will help bring more jobs and people to the island without destroying the peace and quiet they love so much.

(AP Photo/Martha Irvine)

"It was big and noisy," she recalls.

She didn't mind that her family didn't have a television until she was a teenager. For a long time, the closest thing she had to a technological device was the family radio, which she sat beside with her father to listen to boxing matches.

Her world was small in those days. That's how she liked it. But after she graduated from high school, she left the island to find work and she ended up living in other parts of Michigan and then Illinois, where she met her husband. They then moved to northern Indiana, where they raised their son and his children from a previous marriage. Always, she longed to return to the island one day.

It's not the kind of life that appeals to just anyone.

Donna Kubic, a registered nurse who heads the island's rural health center, gets that. She tells the story of a young woman who came to the island to apply for a job at the health center. The woman had planned to stay for a week, but left after staying just one night in a lakeside cottage.

It was too dark out there with no street lights, she told Kubic. Too solitary.

This is, indeed, a place where one doesn't take modern convenience for granted. There is one grocery store, a couple of gas stations, a

handful of restaurants and bars but no movie theater. There is no full-time doctor on the island, though two visit from the mainland twice a month. Critical patients are airlifted off the island, by the Coast Guard if weather shuts down other options.

As recently as two years ago, if someone needed an X-ray, the films had to be flown to the Charlevoix hospital so a radiologist there could read them. Depending on weather, it could take days.

Kubic knew there was a better way. She persuaded the hospital to help her apply for a grant that recently helped her purchase digital X-ray equipment for the health center. Now images can be transmitted in a matter of minutes.

Next came video conferencing, connecting the island's nurse practitioner and physician's assistant to the mainland hospital's emergency room. It's the same technology that allows Bass and the other islanders to take part in the "Circle of Strength" cancer support group. "Without it, we'd be out here, in the lake, without a lot of support," Kubic says. Eventually, she hopes that primary care doctors and specialists — even mental health care providers — will be more willing to offer their services to islanders (though so far, she says, they've been reluctant). □



**FILE** - In this May 15, 2007 file photo, Jill Clayburgh, star of 'Dirty Sexy Money' poses for photographers on the red carpet during the arrivals of ABC's 2007-2008 preview in New York. In one of her final roles Jill Clayburgh plays the mom of charismatic Viagra salesman Jamie Reidy (Jake Gyllenhaal) in the romantic comedy 'Love and Other Drugs.'

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File)

## Jill Clayburgh's co-star had no idea she was sick

By NICOLE EVATT,

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In one of her final roles, Jill Clayburgh plays the mom of charismatic Viagra salesman Jamie Reidy (Jake Gyllenhaal) in the romantic comedy "Love and Other Drugs."

Gyllenhaal and the film's director Edward Zwick said they had no idea the Oscar-nominated screen legend was battling chronic lymphocytic leukemia at the time. They learned of it after their work together.

"I think part of her sickness is what made her live her life ... and really cherish the moments she had and cherish the people she was with," said Gyllenhaal while promoting the film in New York on Sunday. "And she did when she was with us, cherish those moments, and they made us all love her."

Gyllenhaal filmed with Clayburgh in September of 2009.

Clayburgh, 66, died Friday at her home in Lakeville, Conn., after a 21-year battle with the disease.

Gyllenhaal credits Clayburgh's iconic portrayal

of a divorcee in 1978's "An Unmarried Woman" with helping his own mother through divorce.

"It helped her through that time in a way that no other movie or anybody else had," he said.

"She left an indelible impression on me," he said.

"You don't really need much time to work or meet somebody and know that they're really alive ... and when I heard that (she was sick) I just thought, you know there's that moment when you go like 'oh, like maybe that might be why she was so extraordinary.' And it makes me want to encourage people to wake up and live it like Jill did."

Zwick said directing Clayburgh was "a real privilege."

"Her legacy is an extraordinary kind of acting which is of the highest level of authenticity but also of comedy. She managed to do both those things at once," he said.

"Love and Other Drugs," opening Nov. 24, also stars Anne Hathaway as Maggie, a free-spirited artist suffering from early onset Parkinson's disease. □

## Ferrell's 'Megamind' makes mega debut with \$47.7M

By DAVID GERMAIN,  
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — Will Ferrell's plot to take over the weekend box office has succeeded.

Ferrell's animated supervillain comedy "Megamind" debuted as the No. 1 movie with \$47.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Along with the voices of Brad Pitt, Tina Fey and Jonah Hill, the DreamWorks Animation release has Ferrell's title character hatching a scheme to fill the void in his life after he finally defeats his superhero nemesis.

Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis' road-trip comedy, "Due Date," opened at a strong No. 2 with \$33.5 million. The Warner Bros. romp features the two stars as mismatched traveling companions who hit the highway from Atlanta to Los Angeles.

Tyler Perry's drama "For Colored Girls," whose ensemble cast features Janet Jackson and Whoopi Goldberg, premiered solidly in third-place with \$20.1 million. The Lionsgate release is based on Ntozake Shange's play "for colored girls who have considered suicide/ when the rainbow is enuf."

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, Lionsgate's horror tale

"Saw 3D," fell to No. 5 with \$8.2 million, down a steep 66 percent from opening-weekend revenues.

While "Megamind" drew big family crowds on Saturday and Sunday, it also was the top draw on Friday, bringing in large numbers of adults without children, said Anne Globe, head of marketing for DreamWorks Animation.

"For us to be No. 1 on Friday, it showed we did have a lot of appeal to teens, tweens and the date crowd," Globe said.

The three newcomers combined for a \$100 million haul, providing a big weekend for Hollywood, whose revenues have been lagging for most of the fall season.

Overall revenues came in at \$155 million, up 29.5 percent from the same weekend a year ago, when "A Christmas Carol" led with \$30.1 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

The weekend also provided an early jump on the holidays, when big releases include the latest in the "Harry Potter," "Meet the Parents" and "Chronicles of Narnia" franchises. "Just like the first weekend in May has become the kickoff to the summer season, the first weekend in November has become the start of the holiday movie season," said Hollywood.com

analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "Pound for pound, the coming weeks are just as important as the summer movie season."

Hollywood also had good results from some films opening in limited release. Fox Searchlight's survival story, "127 Hours," took in \$265,925 at four theaters, averaging a whopping \$66,481 a cinema. That compared to \$12,082 in 3,944 theaters for "Megamind."

Directed by Danny Boyle ("Slumdog Millionaire"), "127 Hours" stars James Franco in the real-life story of a mountain climber trapped for more than five days in a narrow canyon after a falling boulder pins his arm.

Another real-life drama, Summit Entertainment's political saga "Fair Game," took in \$700,000 in 46 theaters for a \$15,217 average. "Fair Game" features Naomi Watts and Sean Penn in the story of Valerie Plame, a CIA operative whose cover was blown by a Bush administration leak.

"Fair Game" and "127 Hours" gradually expand to more theaters in the coming weeks. Directed by Todd Phillips, "Due Date" came in well below his previous movie, last year's blockbuster "The Hangover," which opened with \$45 million and went on to top the domestic box-office



From left, actor Brad Pitt, actress Tina Fey and executive producer Ben Stiller pose with Metro Man and Megamind characters at the 'Megamind' film premiere at on Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010 in New York.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini)

charts for R-rated comedies with \$277 million.

But "The Hangover" played to a younger audience during the busier summer season.

"That was June, this is November. There are so many reasons that don't make it apples to apples," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. general sales manager.

Lionsgate hopes "For Colored Girls" will have staying power at the box office and broaden its audience, which was mostly older black women, with 87 percent of the crowd over 25.

"You always want the biggest opening you can get, but the reality is, older-skewing films don't open as big, simply because older audiences don't

flock to cinemas over opening weekend," said David Spitz, head of distribution for Lionsgate.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "Megamind," \$47.7 million.
2. "Due Date," \$33.5 million.
3. "For Colored Girls," \$20.1 million.
4. "Red," \$8.9 million.
5. "Saw 3D," \$8.2 million.
6. "Paranormal Activity 2," \$7.3 million.
7. "Jackass 3D," \$5.1 million.
8. "Hereafter," \$4.02 million.
9. "Secretariat," \$4 million.
10. "The Social Network," \$3.6 million. □



# Small banks failing as larger firms regain health

By MARCY GORDON  
DANIEL WAGNER,

AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON — U.S. banks are failing at the fastest rate in two decades.

No, the financial crisis hasn't returned. Wall Street doesn't need another bailout.

But in communities around the country, 143 banks have collapsed so far this year — more than all of last year. This time, the failed banks are smaller, on average, than in 2008 and 2009. The damage to the industry has thus been milder this time. Still, the wave of closings points to the persistent struggles of many

communities and states.

On Friday, regulators closed four small banks: One each in Maryland and Washington state and two in California — one of the hardest-hit states, where a dozen banks have failed this year.

As larger banks have regained their health this year, thanks in part to federal aid, smaller ones have struggled. Here's why:

- Small banks made the riskiest commercial real estate loans — those used to develop apartment buildings, malls and industrial sites. Many such loans soured this year. About 13 percent of all bank

## Bank closures increase

As of November 5, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) has closed 143 banks in 2010. There were 140 closed last year.

Bank failures and their assets at time of closing, July 2008 through Nov. 5, 2010:

Millions: \$100 1,000 5,000 15,000



SOURCE: FDIC

## Top bank failures and assets, 2008-2010:

Washington Mutual, Sept. 2008	\$307 billion
IndyMac Bank, July 2008	32
Colonial Bank, Aug. 2009	25
Guaranty Bank, Aug. 2009	13
BankUnited, May 2009	12.8
Downey Savings and Loan, Nov. 2008	12.8
AmTrust Bank, Dec. 2009	12
Westernbank Puerto Rico, April 2010	11.9
United Commercial Bank, Nov. 2009	11.2
Corus Bank, Sept. 2009	7

AP

Graphic locates failed banks and shows assets at time of closing; includes top 10 bank failures.

## Homeowners say loan mods led them to foreclosure

By JACOB ADELMAN,  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Grocery store owners William and Esperanza Casco were making enough money to stay current on their mortgage, but when JPMorgan Chase & Co. offered a plan that reduced their payments, they figured they could use the extra cash and signed up.

The Cascos say they never missed a subsequent payment, so they were horrified when the bank decided the smaller payments weren't enough and foreclosed on their modest Long Beach home.

Their story is echoed across the country by people who claim — some in lawsuits — that banks didn't live up to their end of the deal when they agreed to trial mortgage modifications.

The suits add to a feeling among many struggling homeowners that they're getting little help from the part of the government's \$700 billion Wall Street rescue that aimed to help them directly.

Indeed, Treasury statistics show that only about one-third of the nearly 1.4 million homeowners accepted into the government's payment reduction program over the past year have had their reductions made permanent.

"It is extremely unfair that someone like me and my wife who have owned our home for 17 years and never missed a payment could end up in foreclosure," Casco, 47, said in Spanish through an interpreter.

Chase spokesman Gary Kishner was unable to

comment on whether Cascos had been current on their payments but insisted the bank had treated the couple fairly.

"We worked with the borrower to give him as many opportunities as possible to qualify for a modification," he said. "However, they were not able to do so and therefore we were forced to foreclose on the property."

Several federal lawsuits filed in Boston accuse major lenders of breach of contract under the government's Home Affordable Modification Program, in which banks agreed to participate as part of the bank bailout.

The lawsuits say the banks agreed under HAMP to grant permanent mortgage modifications to borrowers who make all payments during trial modifications.

Attorney Shennan Alexandra Kavanagh said several of the plaintiffs lost their homes after their payments reverted to their original sums that they were unable to pay. She said she believes tens of thousands of borrowers in Massachusetts alone could be covered by the suits if they get class-action status.

One of the lawsuits, against Bank of America Corp., was consolidated earlier this month with similar complaints in five other states, Kavanagh said.

Bank of America spokeswoman Shirley Norton said in an e-mail that the lender will continue aggressively defending itself against the cases. More lawsuits have been filed against other lenders elsewhere. □

assets consist of these high-risk loans. But for banks with \$10 billion or less in assets, the figure is 28 percent, according to government data.

- Smaller banks didn't receive the taxpayer aid given to Wall Street banks. The big banks recovered in 2009 with help from federal bailout money and fees on bank services. And unlike small institutions, large banks have profited from their investments in the resurgent financial markets even as they've reduced lending in distressed areas.

- The smaller banks haven't had to bolster their financial health as much as larger banks have. Regulators forced big institutions to boost their capital cushions and write off bad loans early in the financial crisis. Not so for smaller banks. And unlike larger ones, many smaller banks are supervised by state banking departments that lack the resources or expertise to monitor them closely.

- Banks must write off bad loans as more borrowers fail to pay. And they must set aside money for other loans that might sour. That drain can endanger small banks with little extra cash. They hold a smaller proportion of safer loans than larger banks do.

In the April-June quarter this year, banks with \$10 billion or less in assets gave up on \$13.6 billion in real estate loans that went bad. They had to reserve more capital for the next wave of souring loans. That reduced their earnings.

An additional problem is that unlike larger banks, smaller ones can lend only in their communities. If a local economy is weak, large lenders can tighten credit there. They can make more loans elsewhere. Small banks lack that option.

Despite the higher number of bank closings this year, the hit to the banking system has been less than last year. The assets of this year's failed banks totaled about \$89 billion. That's scarcely more than half the combined assets of the 140 banks that failed in 2009. All but one of the 143 to fail this year had under \$10 billion in assets. And about three-fourths of those banks had less than \$1 billion.

By contrast, Bank of America, the nation's largest bank, has assets worth about \$2.3 trillion.

The smaller size of this year's failed banks has meant that the government has had to pay only about \$21 billion to cover losses to depositors. □



## Teens of Epileptic Mothers May Lag Academically: Study

By Julia VanTine

Teens born to women who took two or more epilepsy drugs while pregnant fared worse in school than peers with no prenatal exposure to those medications, a large Swedish study has found.

Also, teens born to epileptic mothers in general tended to score lower in several subjects, including math and English.

The findings support earlier research that linked prenatal exposure to epilepsy drugs, particularly valproic acid (brand names include Depakene and Depakote), to negative effects on a child's ability to process information, solve problems and make decisions.

"Our results suggest that exposure to several anti-epileptic drugs in utero may have a negative effect on a child's neurodevelopment," said study author Dr. Lisa Forsberg of Karolinska University Hospital.

The study was published online Nov. 4 in *Epilepsia*.

The study was retrospective, meaning that it looked backwards in time. Using national medical records and a study conducted by a local hospital, Forsberg and her team identified women with epilepsy who gave birth between 1973 and 1986, as well as those who used anti-epileptic drugs during pregnancy. The team then obtained records of children's school performance from a registry that provides grades for all students leaving school at 16, the age that mandatory education ends in Sweden.

The researchers identified 1,235 children born to epileptic mothers. Of those, 641 children were exposed to one anti-epileptic drug and 429 to two or more; 165 children had no known exposure to the medications.

The researchers then compared those children's school performance to that of all other children born in Sweden (more than 1.3 million) during that 13-year period.

The teens exposed to more than one anti-epileptic drug in the womb were less likely to get a final grade than those in the general population, said Forsberg. Not receiving a final grade generally means not attending general school because of mental deficits, she explained.

While teens exposed to only one anti-seizure medication did not show the same risk, they were less likely to pass with excellence. This may be the result of the influence of the anti-epileptic drug during fetal life, but it may also be the effect of factors related to epilepsy, such as genetic factors, social factors and the effect of the mother's seizures, said Forsberg. "Therefore, these data should be interpreted with caution."

Anti-epileptic medications besides valproic acid include phenytoin (such as Dilantin and Phenytek) and carbamazepine (such as Tegretol and Carbatrol). The study noted that compared to other anti-epileptic drugs, valproic acid during pregnancy seems to have a stronger negative influence on cognitive skills. However, Forsberg said that this study could not draw specific conclusions about valproic acid, since very few of the children studied were exposed to it.

There's also evidence that taking multiple anti-epileptic drugs can cause more harm than taking just one. That's why the American Academy of Neurology recommends taking just one during pregnancy, if possible, and trying medications other than valproic acid.

Dr. Jacqueline A. French, professor of neurology at NYU Langone Medical Center and director of the Clinical Trials Consortium at the NYU Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, said that the retrospective nature of the study made it difficult to control for unknowns that could have affected its findings. For example, the study could not factor in how often the mothers had seizures during their pregnancies or during critical early years of the child's life. □



Feminist activists hold signs as they protest against the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Spain in Barcelona, November 7, 2010. Pope Benedict attacked abortion and gay marriage, recently legalised in Spain, in a Mass to consecrate Barcelona's iconic church in another pointed criticism of what he called Spain's "aggressive secularism". The signs read "The Vatican is responsible for millions of AIDS deaths, The Pope to the International Criminal Court" (L), "Take the rosaries out of our ovaries" (R) and "To decide on our body is not a crime".

## Protein Differences May Explain Long-Term HIV Control

Variations in an immune system protein explain the rare ability of some HIV-infected people to remain healthy without having to take any medications, scientists say.

The finding could help in efforts to develop new HIV treatments and vaccines, the study authors pointed out.

The immune system is able to suppress viral replication and keep viral load at extremely low levels in about one in 300 HIV patients. These patients are called HIV controllers.

U.S. researchers analyzed the genomes of about 1,000 HIV controllers and 2,600 HIV patients with progressive infection. The controllers had variations in five amino acids in a protein called HLA-B, which alerts the immune system to the presence of infection. The study was conducted by researchers at the Ragon Institute of Massachusetts General Hospital, MIT and Harvard, and from the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

"We found that, of the three billion nucleotides in the human genome, just a handful make the difference between those who can stay healthy in spite of HIV infection and those

who, without treatment, will develop AIDS," co-senior author Dr. Bruce Walker, director of the Ragon Institute, said in a Ragon Institute/Broad Institute news release.

"Earlier studies had showed that certain genes involved with the HLA system were important for HIV control. But they couldn't tell us exactly which genes were involved and how they produced this difference," co-senior author Paul de Bakker, of the Broad Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, said in the news release. "Our findings take us not only to a specific protein, but to a part of that protein that is essential to its function." The study is published online Nov. 4 in the journal *Science*.

"HIV is slowly revealing its secrets, and this is yet another," Walker said. "Knowing how an effective immune response against HIV is generated is an important step toward replicating that response with a vaccine. We have a long way to go before translating this into a treatment for infected patients and a vaccine to prevent infection, but we are an important step closer." □

# Has History Passed Obama By?

**Pat Buchanan**

Barack Obama's dream of being a transformational president who alters the course of his country died 48 hours ago.

The message America sent Obama and the men and women America sent to Congress to replace his allies impel one to ask: Why would he want a second term?

Why would the most liberal president since FDR wish to preside over the major surgery on the social safety net that must be done in the era of austerity we have entered? The liberal hour is over. Why would the Party of Government not prefer that Republicans do the painful work of paring back programs for which Democrats have fought since the New Deal?

The media have begun a drumbeat to demand that the new speaker, John Boehner, compromise with Obama for the good of the country.

Are these people delusional?

Republicans were brought to power because they were the Party of No. Boehner takes the gavel from Nancy Pelosi because he led the fight to kill the Obama stimulus, Obamacare, card check, amnesty, cap-and-trade and Barney Frank's financial reform.

Boehner's beliefs are closer to the Tea Party than to Obama. He owes his speakership to the Tea Party. His political interests dictate allying with the Tea Party and moving even further away from Obama.

Why would Boehner lead his caucus into a suicide pact with Obama when, in Boehner's eyes, the national interest and his own interests point in the other direction?

The left has yet to grasp that the nation has repudiating it as well as Obama. America has shifted to the right, which again raises the question of Obama's relevance. Why would our most liberal president since FDR want to lead the nation into an age of austerity?

Here is retiring GOP Sen. Judd Gregg, the fiscal conservative that Barack Obama most wanted in his Cabinet.

"This nation is on a course where if we don't ... get ... fiscal policy (under control), we're Greece. We're a banana republic."

"(T)he Tea Party is in the mainstream of where political thought is right now," said Gregg. "We've had a radical explosion in the size of government in the last two years: You've gone from 20 percent of GDP to 24 percent of GDP headed toward 28 percent of GDP. That has to be brought under control or ... we're going to bankrupt the country."

Conservatives, Republicans, Tea Partiers all agree with Gregg. But how does Obama, whose deficits have added more to the debt in two years than Bush added in eight, convert and become a deficit hawk?

Consider Social Security, which all agree must be made solvent.

There are two ways. One is to raise the wage base on which Social Security taxes are imposed and raise the 6.2 percent payroll tax on both employers and employees. But these are major tax increases. And the GOP and Tea Party will fix bayonets to fight them.

The other way is to raise the retirement age to 70 and re-index Social Security COLAs (cost-of-living adjustments) to prices, not wages, reducing future benefits for baby boomers and generations X and Y.

Will Pelosi's battered liberals go along with reducing Social Security benefits if Obama proposes it? Or would that tear what is left of his tattered coalition to pieces?

To cut spending to 20 percent of GDP from 24 would require annual slashes of \$600 billion, eliminating a sixth of the budget.

Will Democrats go along with that magnitude of cuts in Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, unemployment benefits, earned income tax credits, infrastructure, Pell grants

and welfare?

Will Republicans go along with cuts of that size for the Iraq and Afghan wars, new weapons systems, closing of bases and withdrawal of troops from Korea, Japan or Europe? To get 4 percent of GDP out of defense would require putting the Pentagon on furlough.

Bottom line: The new Republican House has the numbers and will to block new taxes and fund both wars and the rising defense budget. And the president has the veto power to block severe cuts in social programs, which his bloodied forces will demand that he do.

Were this a parliamentary system, Obama would be out of power, as the nation voted to reject his party and reverse the course of the country.

In Britain, under Prime Minister David Cameron, the austerity the people voted for is being imposed. In Virginia and New Jersey, where Govs. Bob McDonnell and Chris Christie were elected in 2009 to change the direction of state government, this is happening.

In Washington, however, where Obama's agenda and party were repudiated by the nation, they still retain the power to prevent the nation from going where America voted to go.

The center has disintegrated. The result: a deadlock of democracy, with neither party responsible and neither accountable, as we drift toward the falls.

Greece, here we come. □

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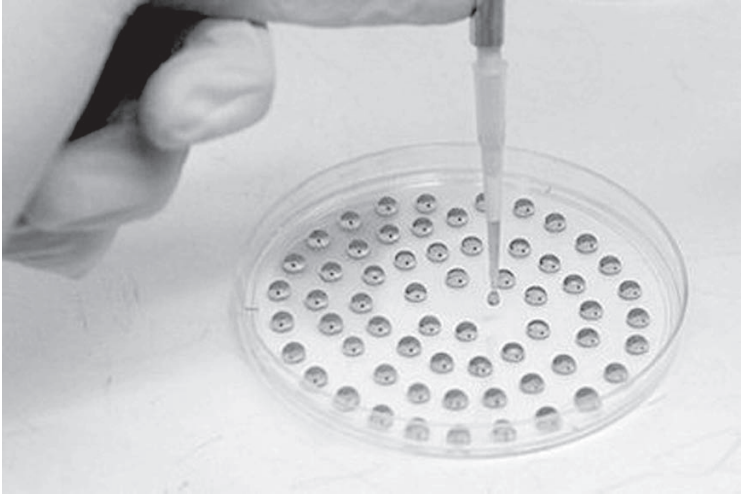
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# Scientists turn skin into blood



A researcher manipulates drops of stem cells in a laboratory. Stem cell researchers have found a way to turn a person's skin into blood, a process that could be used to treat cancer and other ailments, according to a Canadian study published Sunday.

by Kerry Sheridan

WASHINGTON — Stem cell researchers have found a way to turn a person's skin into blood, a process that could be used to treat cancer and other ailments, according to a Canadian study published Sunday.

The method uses cells from a patch of a person's skin and transforms it into blood that is a genetic match, without using human embryonic stem cells, said the study in the journal Nature.

By avoiding the controversial and more complicated processes involved with using human embryonic stem cells to create blood, this approach simplifies the process, researchers said.

"What we believe we can do in the future is generate blood in a much more efficient manner,"

said study author Mick Bhatia of the McMaster's Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute in the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

With the ability to create blood for transfusion from a person's own skin, the advance means someday patients needing blood for surgery or to treat anemia could bypass the blood bank and derive the necessary supply from themselves.

The breakthrough could also see future uses such as allowing patients undergoing chemotherapy to endure a longer regime of treatment without the breaks currently needed to rejuvenate the body. Researchers have been able to perform the skin-to-blood transformation in the past, but while using human pluripotent stem cells, widely known as embryonic stem cells.

Stem cells that are derived from human embryos hold significant promise for medical breakthroughs but also carry risks, such as the potential to create tumors.

But researchers say their new method can create enough blood for a transfusion from a four by three centimeter (1.6 by 1.2 inch) patch of adult human skin, and can avoid those potential hurdles.

"So we don't need to take skin cells and put it into a pluripotent stem cell. That is inefficient in terms of time," Bhatia told AFP.

"There are also concerns that they might form a tumor, and the fact that we bypass that makes it more feasible for transplants."

Those needing bone marrow transplants could be particularly aided by the breakthrough, according to

John Kelton, dean of health sciences for McMaster University.

"For all physicians, but especially for the patients and their families, the illness became more frustrating when we were prevented from giving a bone marrow transplant because we could not find a perfect donor match in the family or the community," Kelton said.

"Dr. Bhatia's discovery could permit us to help this important group of patients."

Clinical trials could start as soon as 2012, the study said.

Cynthia Dunbar, head of the molecular hematopoiesis section of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health in the United States, said she was eager to try out the Canadian team's approach.

"I think there are exciting

aspects in terms of this potentially being a much safer approach than going back through embryonic stem cells," said Dunbar, who estimated it would be five to 10 years before the technique reaches the general public.

"I work for the US federal government, and whether or not we can work with embryonic stem cells is up in the air," she added. "I'm very excited to try this."

Bhatia said researchers would next begin experiments to see what other kinds of human cells can be derived from adult skin.

The research was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, the Stem Cell Network and the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation. □

## Bloomberg to promote electric taxis in cities

By MIN LEE,  
Associated Press

HONG KONG — City authorities are often better placed than national governments to combat climate change, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Saturday, vowing to promote the use of electric taxis as he takes over the leadership of a global coalition of major cities.

The billionaire mayor urged delegates at the C40 conference in Hong Kong to

wield the power of its large collective population, which accounts for about 1 in 12 people in the world.

C40 is a coalition of 40 cities. It was founded in 2005 with the aim of reducing carbon emissions. Nineteen other cities are affiliate members.

Those cities' huge car and taxi populations mean they have a huge role to play to cutting emissions, Bloomberg said. The 19 of the C40 cities where statistics were available are home to more than 20

million cars and 25 member city governments represented in the coalition have oversight of taxi fleets controlling more than 1 million cabs.

"Think of that — a million-plus autos, the most iconic vehicles in our downtowns, that we can start to work together to make more efficient and less polluting," he said.

He suggested that cities could agree on common taxi designs and place orders for the vehicles together — although he acknowledged later in comments to reporters that there would be practical difficulties in introducing the same electric taxis, because of differences in economics, regulations and safety standards.

But he said he is hopeful that cities with similar standards will work together.

"We've seen, I think again and again, how national governments have struggled, both at home and at the international stage, to take climate change actions," the mayor said in his speech. "Together, we have to fill the vacuum of leadership ourselves."

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# Huelga en mina Collahuasi Chile continúa sin señales de acuerdo

IQUIQUE, Chile (Reuters) - Los trabajadores de la mina de cobre Collahuasi en Chile entraron a su tercer día de huelga contractual sin indicios de un acercamiento entre la firma y su sindicato, mientras un plan de emergencia sigue garantizando las operaciones en el yacimiento.

La protesta fue desatada tras una fallida negociación en la asociación controlada por las gigantes Anglo American y Xstrata. Sin embargo, hasta el momento los trabajadores no han logrado afectar la producción del yacimiento, que se mantiene operativo por trabajadores de reemplazo que la compañía puede contratar legalmente en medio del conflicto.

“La operación sigue en ritmo normal, el plan de continuidad operacional está siendo aplicado y no hay novedades”, reiteró el domingo la portavoz de la firma, Bernardita Fernández.

Algunos expertos consideran que la producción podría empezar a tener algún debilitamiento en el plazo de una semana de paralización.

El gremio ha dicho que el cansancio de los

reemplazantes empezaría a tener efecto en el yacimiento, pero la compañía dice contar con suficiente personal para otorgar el descanso necesario por turnos.

En tanto, socios del sindicato permanecen en una escuela abandonada en el centro de la norteña ciudad de Iquique, que ocuparon en la víspera y afirman será su sede mientras se resuelve la disputa.

Las posturas sobre un nuevo contrato no se han acercado, ya que los trabajadores dicen que buscan mejoras en el ingreso real mensual de sus afiliados, mientras la compañía insiste en destacar otros beneficios.

El sindicato ha instado al ministro de Minería, Laurence Golborne, a que se pronuncie sobre el caso. Collahuasi, el tercer mayor yacimiento mundial de cobre con una producción de 535.000 toneladas anuales, está enclavado a más de 4.000 metros sobre el nivel del mar en plena Cordillera de Los Andes. Hasta el momento, la empresa no ha contactado nuevamente a los trabajadores para reactivar un diálogo sobre la contratación. □

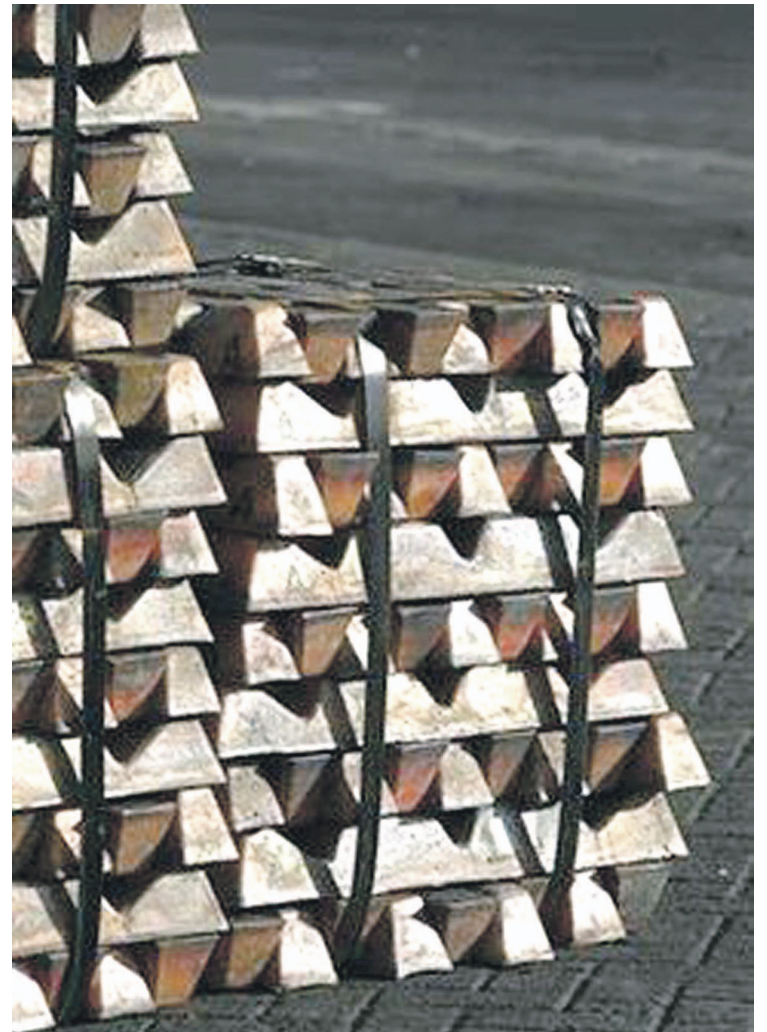


Foto de archivo de un cargamento de barras de cobre en el puerto de Valparaíso, jun 29 2009. REUTERS/Eliseo Fernandez

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